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Zehava Ben comes home



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United close gap on Villa

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US, Israel upgrade strategic relations

By DANNA HARMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US President Bill Clinton signed a pact yesterday committing themselves to strengthening strategic defense and deterrence.

The agreement states that, considering the "developing regional threats emanating from the acquisition of ballistic missile capabilities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," the two countries have decided to work jointly towards "enhancing Israel's defensive and deterrent capabilities... and upgrading the framework of the US-Israel strategic and military relationship."

"This is a major step forward in Israeli-American strategic cooperation," said Netanyahu at the Jerusalem signing ceremony, attended by US Ambassador to Israel Edward Walker. "The objective of this agreement is to create a response to the new regional threats... this document makes it clear that the US is committed to giving Israel help in strengthening deterrence and defense abilities."

Netanyahu didn't give many details, saying only that the cooperation would be "technological, diplomatic and military."

A source in the Prime Minister's Office added that there would be joint research and development work, exchanges of intelligence and perhaps an increase in US funding.

See STRATEGIC, Page 6

Israel demands Deif's arrest

By DANNA HARMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday called on the Palestinian Authority to "immediately apprehend, arrest and jail" Youssef Mohammed Deif, the head of the Hamas military wing, who has been wanted since 1992, and is the suspected mastermind behind the Thursday suicide bombing in Gush Katif.

"This is a clear expectation on our part, and we certainly want to see it happen in the very near future. Without this it is clear that the attacks will continue, and so it

US: PA to present security plan tomorrow, Page 2

has to be done, and as soon as possible, for the sake of the Palestinians and for the sake of the agreement," Netanyahu said, at a press conference in Jerusalem.

Although not conditioning ratification of the Wye Memorandum on Deif's capture, Netanyahu made it clear that he did not intend to bring the agreement to a cabinet vote before Israel received word that the PA had submitted its security working paper to the US—and was ready to truly combat terrorism.

Thus, when the cabinet meets today, the agreement will not be presented.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon earlier said Palestinian moves to crack down on Hamas militants after Thursday's suicide bombing were "only initial steps" to meet their security obligations under the new pact.

See DEIF, Page 5



Demonstrators hold up a photograph of Yitzhak Rabin last night, at a rally held in Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin marking three years since his assassination. (Reuters)

Mordechai: Continue Rabin's legacy

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Three bullets killed Yitzhak Rabin, but did not and will never kill his legacy of strengthening Israel's security and promoting peace," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last night at a massive memorial rally at Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin to mark the third anniversary of his assassination.

The crowd, which police estimated at 150,000, filled the square and the surrounding streets an hour before the rally and thousands of people kept thronging to the site. "We must continue his way," said a giant poster behind the elevated stage. "Friend, you are missed" it said, along the bottom of the podium. Thousands carried memorial candles.

Leah Rabin, who spoke last at the four-hour rally, said: "Today the words traitor and murderer arouse dread in the public. You paid with your blood and we with your loss, so that such incitement today sounds a warning siren and everyone warns against [what might happen]."

"But then nobody paid attention and we let you fall," she said.

Labor MK Shimon Peres lashed out at those who had attacked Rabin's way of thinking. He reprimanded Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for failing to mention Rabin at the signing of the Wye Memorandum.

"The signature could have been a contribution to the nation's unity had Netanyahu asked everyone to rise in memory of this great man," he said.

Mordechai, who was received warmly by the crowd, said "the bullets that killed Rabin hit the heart of the nation, the heart of democracy and the heart of Israeli society. The wound has not healed and we will carry the scars for generations... Three years after the murder, we came to say this is the legacy for future generations: Such a thing will not happen again in our land."

Gesher leader MK David Levy, the first speaker at the rally, said "We of this generation, who witnessed the terrible tragedy, will always remember and remind [others] how, why and for what the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, was murdered."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said: "This is a day of victory. Yitzhak. Your way has finally triumphed."

Barak commended the government and its leaders for achieving the Wye agreement, pledging "we'll support peace and wait for its implementation, as confused, faltering and filled with contradictions as it may be."

Barak sharply denounced any incitement or call of "traitor" against a prime minister.

Danna Harman adds: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, at a press conference in Jerusalem said that he too, took part in the "deep sorrow and the terrible shock," felt by all Israelis at the time of Rabin's murder.

Land confiscations to begin for new bypass roads

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF is bracing for an outbreak of protests and possible violence this week as the Civil Administration begins confiscating land to pave bypass roads and a northern entrance into Efrat.

Hundreds of security personnel are said to have been assigned to accompany the Civil Administration when they begin the procedure, which includes surveying and delivering confiscation orders.

The land for the road runs from the Givat Hazayit hilltop, past Solomon's Pools and the Arab village of Artas to the main Jerusalem-Hebron highway, sources in the Civil Administration said. The work is expected to begin tomorrow morning.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of government activities in the territories, confirmed that the land confiscations were taking place this week, but said the new road is not related to the second redeployment and has been in the works for a long time.

He said it had never been paved for lack of funds; moreover, Efrat residents had opposed the use of the road by local Arabs.

These problems, however, were solved when the Gush Etzion Regional Council came up with the money and Efrat residents dropped their objections to sharing the road.

Efrat Local Council Chairman Yimon Ahimani said an agreement had been reached with the Civil Administration that will allow Jews and Palestinians to use the road. He added that the plans do not threaten construction at Givat Hazayit.

Dror noted that Efrat was in need of a second entrance because having only one put the community at risk of being cut off in an emergency.

The entire defense establishment appears to be moving into high gear as it prepares to carry out the second redeployment, though officially, the army must wait for the cabinet to approve the deal.

Senior defense officials said that the preparations, being referred to as "staff work," are going ahead.

See LAND, Page 6

Huldai a shoo-in for Tel Aviv mayor

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Barring any unexpected eleventh-hour surprises, Ron Huldai will be the next mayor of Tel Aviv after the November 10 elections.

Huldai, an independent candidate running jointly with the Labor Party, last week won a declaration of support from outgoing mayor Ronni Milo as well.

Recent opinion polls have predicted that Huldai would sweep 59 percent of the vote next week. Doron Rubin, formerly the Likud's candidate, lags far behind at 17%.

Huldai, a former kibbutznik, air force pilot and once principal of the Herzliya Gymnasium, has campaigned without making any election promises.

"In ten years time, they will say there was a good mayor in Tel Aviv," he said in a campaign speech. "That's all; talk is just talk."

When I went to Herzliya Gymnasium I made no promises. I said wait and look at my record. Give me a chance to keep my promises without making them. I know what people think about. I know what they want done," he has said.

Huldai insisted on running for mayor even when Labor had sought to make a deal with Milo, at a time when he was favored by the polls to win. Only when Milo announced he would be moving up in the political world and running for prime minister did Huldai see his path to the 12th floor of City Hall suddenly clear.

Another obstacle was removed from Huldai's path last week when Meretz's candidate Michael Ro'eh stepped out of the race. Ro'eh made a coalition deal with Huldai and called on his supporters to vote for him.

Rubin started out as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's

See HULDAI, Page 3

Iraq halts inspections

Israel expresses concern

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

Iraq said yesterday it was suspending all cooperation with UN arms inspectors and monitors until the Security Council reviews the lifting of sanctions and purges its teams of "American spies and agents."

The decision came after a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council headed by President Saddam Hussein and the regional command of the ruling Ba'ath Party.

"Until the Security Council examines sincerely and positively Iraq's right to lifting the unjust embargo, Iraq decides to suspend all forms of dealing with the [UN] Special Commission and its chairman... and stop all its activities inside Iraq including the monitoring activities as from today," an Iraqi statement said.

It was not immediately clear what the move would mean in practice.

UNSCOM officials were told the inspectors could not leave the monitoring center, but UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said they had also been told they would not be expelled and could continue to work with cameras and electronic sensors.

In August, Iraq suspended new spot inspections by the UN Special Commission, in charge of ridding Baghdad of its nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic weapons. That decision restricted inspectors to sites already visited.

In New York, Britain called a UN Security Council emergency session for yesterday afternoon to discuss the Iraqi announcement.

Israeli security sources said they were viewing the developments with concern.

While the defense establishment does not believe that Israel faces a nuclear threat, it has instructed the Home Front Command to examine if it is even possible to build protection from atomic bombs in Israel.

IDF intelligence officers are worried not only because Iraq has managed to conceal chemical and biological weapons or a few Scud missiles, but because Baghdad has kept enough scientists on tap to enable a quick rebuilding of its laboratories and war machine once sanctions are lifted.

"Once the UN closes the file on Iraq [i.e., lifts the sanctions] some \$20 billion will come flowing back into Saddam's pockets," said one senior intelligence officer.

Defense officials have long predicted that Saddam would generate a crisis over the UNSCOM inspectors in late October. The Home Front Command had been instructed to prepare accordingly.

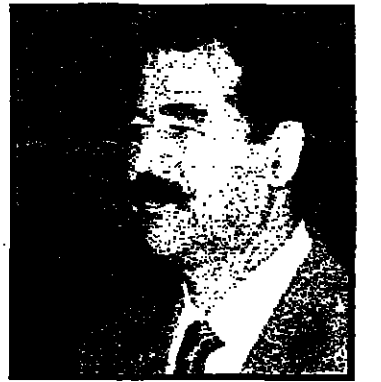
The British government described the Iraqi announcement as totally unacceptable and accused Baghdad of flouting UN resolutions.

UNSCOM's executive chairman Richard Butler, the main focus of Iraq's latest attacks, is in California and will be heading to the UN shortly. His deputy, Charles Duelfer, has called a telephone conference with UNSCOM staff in Baghdad.

Quoting an informed source, Baghdad said in a statement yesterday that it had officially informed Nils Carlstrom, director of Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center, that its decision "does not include a demand to expel or withdraw the inspectors nor halt the work of cameras and sensors."

"The decision only includes a suspension of cooperation with the UNSCOM and monitors," the statement added.

Iraq was apparently dismayed by the outcome of a Friday council meeting in which the shape of a new full-fledged review of its relations with the UN was agreed upon.



Saddam Hussein

Saddam may be in for a(nother) surprise

After over seven years of systematic concealment and deceit, Iraq's announcement of the end of cooperation with the United Nations weapons inspectors is hardly surprising.

Despite his defeat and surrender in the 1991 war, Saddam Hussein has successfully held onto all his major weapons systems, including chemical and biological warheads, missiles and launchers, and the advanced research framework for producing nuclear weapons.

From the beginning, he bet that he could outlast the US and the West, and the evidence indicates that he was correct.

Iraq has followed a two-track strategy, based on a political campaign to lift sanctions, while periodically challenging the inspectors.

The first track seemed to be making progress, as a number of countries, led by Russia and France, supported Saddam's position in the UN Security Council, in the hope that they would be rewarded with major contracts from Baghdad.

However, following the recent presentation of evidence that Iraq had lied about its nerve gas program, this option has basically fallen away.

This led to the decision to place gradual limits on the activities of the inspectors, while avoiding action that might force the Americans to launch another major bombing campaign.

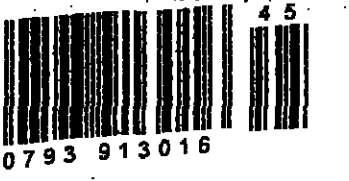
Since 1996, when the Clinton administration began to blink at Iraqi defiance, the inspection regime has been eroding.

In late 1997, Iraq initiated a crisis over the inspection of the massive presidential palace, and instead of using force, the US backed a pseudo-compromise brokered by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. By the time the inspectors had a chance to check out the palace grounds, the weapons and facilities had been moved.

When the inspectors again began to zero in on the secret Iraqi programs, the US government told them to slow down, in order to avoid another confrontation. When inspector Scott Ritter balked, he was removed, and subjected to legal harassment.

As a result, there was good reason for Saddam to conclude that the Clinton administration was unwilling to embark on a serious military campaign that would destroy his power base and be directed at himself.

See ANALYSIS, Page 6



NEWS

in brief

Students to talk with Treasury officials today

Representatives of the National Union of Israeli Students are to meet with senior Treasury officials today in a bid to make some progress towards solving the university students' strike, which is in its second week.

Union spokesman Ronen Herszkowitz said last night the students are "not optimistic" going into this morning's session with Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb.

The students plan to hold gatherings today at the main university campuses to mark the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, but will refrain from holding large demonstrations connected to their demands to reduce tuition by half.

However, Herszkowitz said that if the talks with the Treasury today fail, the students will renew their strike efforts in full tomorrow.

The cabinet is to discuss the students' strike in its meeting today.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

US embassy names temporary spokesman

The Israeli Embassy in Washington has named its public affairs consul, Avi Granot, its temporary spokesman.

The move, which took effect late last week, is a stop-gap measure because the embassy has been without a spokesman at the crucial posting since Gadi Baltiansky returned to Israel in July.

Former *Ma'ariv* reporter Avinoam Bar-Yosef is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's choice for the job, but the Foreign Ministry continues to resist handing the plum job to a non-diplomat.

Hillel Kuttler

IDF arrests soldier suspect of drug dealing

Military police have arrested a soldier suspected of dealing in drugs and confiscated more than 650 Ecstasy pills, the army said.

The soldier served in the North and had been absent without leave from his unit. Acting in cooperation with national police, the IDF's special undercover drug squad caught him in the middle of an alleged drug transaction, the IDF said.

The soldier told his interrogators that he needed to deal in drugs because of his "dire financial situation." The army said last night that the latest bust was part of its ongoing war on drugs in the IDF. Most of the drugs used by soldiers have been LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy) and marijuana, the IDF said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Man remanded 10 days on drug charges

A 50-year-old resident of Rishon LeZion was remanded last night for 10 days after being arrested Friday near Metulla with nearly two kilograms of heroin in his possession.

The police spokesman for the northern region said that the suspect brought before Nazareth Magistrate's Court had been accompanied by an 11-year-old boy when he was arrested.

The suspect had also been carrying a package containing counterfeit money which he allegedly planned to throw over the border fence in return for the heroin.

David Rudge

Three dead in road accidents

Yusuf Salah Ali, 65, of Kafr Kisa, was hit by a commercial vehicle and killed Friday night near the Tamra junction as he was trying to cross the Shfaram-Ahihud road.

Nasrin Gofa, 22, of Dabburiya, died Friday of injuries suffered Wednesday when her car swerved off the road and hit a tree.

Yossi Ben-Hamu, 24, of Ashkelon, was killed late Thursday night when his car hit an electricity pole on Sderot Ofer in Ashkelon.

There were five other passengers in his vehicle. One was critically injured, another suffered moderate injuries, and three others were lightly hurt.

Two people were hurt Friday afternoon, one seriously, in an accident that occurred between Haifa and Adit. The second victim suffered moderate injuries.

Itim

US national security adviser Sandy Berger

PA to present security plan tomorrow

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - National security adviser Sandy Berger said he expects the Palestinians to present their security plan to the US tomorrow.

He also criticized Iran's denunciation of the Wye accord, saying it is "not consistent" with the more moderate stance that Tehran had recently adopted on the peace process.

In an appearance before the National Press Club, Berger said Friday that the agreement was good for both Israel and the Palestinians. He called the planned Israeli redeployment a "substantial land transfer" to the Palestinian Authority.

The American peace process team headed by Dennis Ross is expected in the Middle East this week to oversee the start of final-status negotiations, a senior US official said.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is to visit Washington next week to discuss with the US "the two countries' positions on the eve of the final-status talks," an Israeli embassy official said.

Sharon is also expected to present details of Israel's financial needs from the US to cover redeployment expenses, the embassy official added.

Asked about the Palestinians' security plan, Berger said: "The Palestinians and the Israelis are discussing this and we are working with the Palestinians."

I think it is on track and I think we will see it soon," he said.

Berger voiced a theme other top administration officials have articulated since the Wye accord was signed: that the Arab world should vigorously support the deal.

"It is important for the moderate Arab

countries now, I think, to support this process. They have been quite legitimately unhappy over the past 18 months that the peace process has been stalled. The process is now on track, in an agreement that Chairman Arafat himself, I think, who is the best judge of the interests of the Palestinian people, believes is a good agreement," Berger said.

"And I think it's important that the moderate Arab countries support that ... [with] much stronger statements of support, for example, from the Gulf state countries."

He added that "confidence will come with action, and I think we now have a set of essentially reciprocal actions that are intended to build that confidence, both between the parties and between Israel and the larger Arab community."

"And I think as we move down this road, I certainly hope that the centripetal forces

in the region will intensify and the centrifugal forces that pull the region apart will be diminished."

Berger described Thursday's car bombing near Kfar Darom, which killed Sgt. Alexei Nikov, 19, and wounded two other soldiers, as an instance of anticipated "setbacks and likely more violence" flowing from the Wye accord.

"We are under no illusion that the breakthrough at Wye makes implementation or a final settlement easy," he said.

Berger said the Americans "obviously fundamentally disagree" with Iran's denunciation of the accord, adding that it was "particularly unhelpful."

"The Iranians in the past recently have indicated that they would take a somewhat more constructive attitude towards the peace process. And this, I think, is not consistent with that."



Remembering Rabin

Children from Kibbutz Tzova light memorial candles Friday at Yitzhak Rabin's grave on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

(Brian Heidler)

Jews, Arabs meet together with Albright

WASHINGTON - Lost in the briefing last week that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's held for Jewish and Arab-Americans was the fact that both groups were in the room with her at the same time.

A priority for Albright is to maintain close ties to leaders in both communities and brief them frequently on the administration's efforts in advancing the peace process.

But Wednesday's 90-minute discussion was, to the best of anyone's recollection, the first such high-level joint briefing since President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore addressed the two groups together an hour after the signing of the Oslo accords in September 1993. That event soon launched Builders for Peace, a collaboration of Jewish and Arab entrepreneurs interested in investing in Palestinian infrastructure development. The loose organization collapsed last year.

Albright's briefing was arranged as it was to underscore the importance the administration attaches to drumming up public support for the Wye accord.

Albright appealed to her guests to "get behind" the accord, one participant stated afterwards.

Here and there, individual Jewish and Arab organizations work together on common concerns, like safeguarding civil rights and fighting ethnic stereotyping. Arab-American groups have even sought the community relations expertise of Jewish organizations. A coalition of Jewish and Arab groups joined together to protest the humanitarian crisis in

the early days of the Bosnian civil war. And occasionally, there is peace process-related dialogue, as between Americans for Peace Now and the Arab American Institute. Still, the cooperation has been sporadic, and never institutionalized.

"But it's another thing for the secretary of state to call us for a meeting together as one constituency. It's almost breathtaking," said Arab American Institute president James Zogby.

He also called the joint briefing "very significant" and was almost giddy in discussing the possibilities.

"It was extraordinary. It's never too early," he said. "The fact is, we are all Americans, we have different views, but we're all invested in seeing this [peace] process work. Even with our differences, we need to be talking ... not only when things are good but when things are not on track. It should have been happening the last five years. We should have stopped meeting after Oslo."

The Wye signing may provide the momentum for the two communities to establish an ongoing dialogue. Participants in the Albright briefing later decided to continue meeting with one another. They are exploring the idea of drafting a joint letter to Clinton in support of the peace process.

Larry Rubin, executive vice chairman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said "it is always useful to have bridges between communities" in the US, for "exploring common goals and defusing points of conflict."

CORRECTION

Temporary and permanent residents may vote in local authority elections, and not as reported in "Local issues vs. party loyalty" (October 30).

NRP's rabbis lobby ministers to vote against Wye

By SARAH HONIG

The National Religious Party's spiritual leaders are hard at work to dissuade ministers from supporting the Wye Memorandum when it comes up for debate in the cabinet. This at the very same time as the government is sending ministers to the rabbis to try to soften their opposition to the deal.

The NRP, meanwhile, has postponed its crucial central committee meeting until next week. The meeting which was scheduled for today was to decide whether or not the nine NRP MKs would be authorized to vote for the early elections bill.

The NRP Knesset faction had prima facie approved a vote for dissolving the Knesset and going to the polls, but later some differences of opinion emerged, so the committee will have to decide. The party has more than enough Knesset mandates to tip the scales either for or against the bill.

The committee session's postponement, *The Jerusalem Post* was told, was triggered

by the cabinet's plan to delay its debate and vote on the peace deal.

In advance of the all-important committee session, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met twice with the rabbis in question, former Ashkenazi chief rabbi Avraham Shapira and his close partner, former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu. Both Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon have reportedly failed to influence the rabbis' views.

On Friday Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was sent to try and prevail on Eliyahu as well. He spent nearly two hours with him. Eliyahu reportedly bombarded Mordechai with a series of penetrating questions, which the defense minister tried to answer. In the end, report reliable NRP sources, the rabbi was unwavering.

But while these attempts to influence the NRP via its spiritual leaders were conducted, these same leaders were carrying on an intensive campaign of their own to influence ministers to reject the Wye agreement.

Eliyahu met with Science Minister Silvan Shalom at the end of last week. Shalom had opposed the deal from the outset and sources close to Netanyahu expect that Shalom may abstain, if not support the agreement in the end.

Last night Eliyahu and Shapira went so far as to meet with Absorption Minister Natan Sharansky, who was one of the Wye negotiators.

Eliyahu and Shapira also plan a meeting with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. While Neeman is seen as the most likely of all ministers to vote for the agreement, he is observant and the rabbis are determined to appeal to him.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said over the weekend that he would "under no circumstances support an agreement which failed to insure the extradition of murderers. This is something which the Palestinians undertook to do in previous agreements but had always violated their undertakings. It is wrong to now let them off the hook."

However, Hanegbi said he does not yet know whether he will actually vote against the agreement, or abstain.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's vote for the agreement, which he was so instrumental in negotiating, is not assured either. Sharon explained that while the agreement is a good one, he still considers the 13% withdrawal dangerous.

Sharon's preferred option would be to abstain, but he is not announcing anything formally because he needs to see if the agreement has a majority in the cabinet. If its ratification will hinge on his vote, Sharon is expected to cast a "yes" vote. But if there will be a majority without him, he is expected to abstain.

Two votes which were in the bag all along are those of Shas leaders Interior Minister Eli Shais and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai. Nevertheless, Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef pledged the party's support again when Mordechai called on him too, Friday.

IAF bombs Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes bombed Hizbullah targets north of the security zone around midnight on Friday amid ongoing fighting in south Lebanon over the weekend.

The IDF spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

News agency reports from Lebanon said Lebanese troops opened fire with anti-aircraft guns at the planes, without hitting them.

The warplanes reportedly fired

two rockets at what was believed to be a trail in southeastern Lebanon used by Hizbullah gunmen to infiltrate the security zone.

There were no reports of any casualties from the raid which was reported to be the 86th strike by the IAF in Lebanon since the beginning of the year.

In an unrelated incident, a bomb exploded in the car of Fatah official Khaled Kundiyyeh in the Ein el-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon early yesterday. He escaped unhurt.

The IAF raid was apparently in

retaliation for a series of mortar attacks by Hizbullah and Amal gunmen on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions earlier Friday.

In one incident, mortars struck Ras Bayada village near the coast for the second time in less than a week, damaging a building. IDF gunners returned fire.

Last week mortars fired by Amal gunmen also hit the village, lightly wounding three residents and damaging two houses.

Israel has complained to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over both incidents, and also protested over Hizbullah gunfire from inside Jaba village, north of the zone, during recent fighting.

A Givati Brigade soldier, Cpl. Amit Yaron, was seriously wounded in one of the long range mortar attacks last Wednesday when a piece of shrapnel penetrated his brain.

The young soldier was reported in stable but still serious condition yesterday in the intensive care unit of the neurosurgery department of Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Three SLA soldiers wounded in a similar attack on the same day are also being treated in Rambam.

Mofaz praises soldiers' heroism in Gush Katif

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz has praised the heroism shown by IDF troops who prevented children from being killed in Thursday's car bombing in Gush Katif by shielding a school bus from the blast with their jeep.

Sgt. Alexei Nikov, 19, who was killed in the blast, was buried on Friday at the military cemetery in Haifa, the hometown of his parents and younger brother since they immigrated from Russia.

Hundreds attended Nikov's funeral, including comrades from his IDF combat engineers' unit, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia and fellow immigrants.

Nikov's battalion commander eulogized him by saying that Nikov had volunteered to join the fateful morning patrol. He spoke about how Nikov enjoyed the task of escorting school buses and constantly anticipated facing a moment such as the one in which he found his death.

"With his body he shielded the car bomb and prevented a very terrible tragedy," his officer said. Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom, MK Shevach Weiss, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and Haifa's chief rabbi Sha'ar Yeshov Cohen also attended the funeral.

"We haven't come here to eulogize you because no eulogy can express the terrible pain," Cohen said. "We salute not only you, but are making a covenant of blood, of pain and of suffering with the family of immigrants. This awful tragedy proves that you are part of us."

Mofaz visited the two soldiers wounded in the bombing. He told reporters afterwards at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba:

"This was not a matter of luck but proper action and the sacrifice of a soldier from the combat engineers who prevented a much more terrible tragedy."

"The death of Sgt. Alexei Nikov is a great loss. But sticking to procedures without regard to personal safety prevented an even greater tragedy," Mofaz said.

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HULDAI
Continued on Page 3

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NEWS

in brief

After Khamenei calls Arafat an Israeli 'lackey' Palestinian Authority slams Iran

The Palestinian Authority has sharply condemned Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei for attacking PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's authority to sign his latest peace deal with Israel.

"The statements of Khamenei are baseless, irresponsible and lack credibility," the Palestinian official news agency Wafa quoted Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, General Secretary of the Palestinian Presidency, as saying Friday.

"Abdel-Rahim called upon the Iranian leadership to stop intervening in the Palestinian arena," the statement said.

"The Palestinian Authority will not allow Khamenei or anyone else to treat the Palestinian arena as another Afghanistan in which people like him and his mercenaries intervene with their corruption, sedition and conspiracies against the interests of the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Khamenei, addressing Moslem wor-

shippers during Friday prayers in Tehran, called Arafat an Israeli "lackey" who, under the Wye Memorandum signed in Washington last week, had replaced Israel as the jailer of Palestinians.

"The Palestinian nation is the enemy of the Zionists and the enemy of the lackeys of the Zionists, even if that includes Yasser Arafat," Khamenei said. "He did not have the right to decide for the Palestinian people."

Under the Wye deal, Israel will cede

another 13 percent of the West Bank to Arafat's rule in exchange for Palestinian measures to deter anti-Israel violence.

"Khamenei should maintain politeness when addressing the Palestinian leader, who is stationed in the heart of the Palestinian people," the Wafa statement said.

Iran says Israel has no right to exist and opposes US-led efforts to reconcile Arabs with the Jewish state. (Reuters)

MDA donors here to dedicate new blood center

The International Committee of Friends of Magen David Adom (IMDAC) has arrived to mark Israel's jubilee anniversary and to dedicate MDA's new national blood fractionation center at Tel Hashomer.

The center, which process blood to obtain packed red cells, fresh-frozen plasma, platelets, albumin, gamma globulin, factor VIII (for hemophiliacs) and other products, and an adjacent blood bank, cost \$33 million. The funds were raised by MDA friends in the US, Britain, Canada and South Africa.

The center, which has 120 staffers, supplies all of the blood needs of the Israel Defense Forces and 95% of the requirements of the country's hospitals. Judy Siegel

Women's League for Israel marks 70 years

The Women's League for Israel, a New York-headquartered organization dedicated to mainstreaming new immigrants and other groups through residential, educational, vocational training and family therapy projects, is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

The group's president, Harriet Lainer, is bringing a delegation of 100 volunteers to inspect its facilities in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Netanya. Close to a million people have been helped by the league in Israel. Greer Fay Cashman

Cyclists compete in marathon for charity

Forty-five cyclists representing children's charities in Britain and Israel completed a five-day cycle marathon on Friday. They covered some 613 kilometers from Geshur Haziv, near the Lebanese border, to Eilat, through some of the country's hillest terrain.

Cyclists with Down's syndrome rode in tandem with others. Gordon Fox, director of the Ravenswood-Norwood Center for children with learning disabilities, said the ride brought in 150,000 pounds (NIS 1 million) for his center, near London.

Four Israelis, including *The Jerusalem Post's* Jon Immanuel, rode in the charity event, collecting more than NIS 30,000 for Alyn Hospital for physically handicapped children in Jerusalem. Jerusalem Post Staff

Solar truck on display in Beersheba

Greenpeace's solar truck is expected to reach Beersheba today and to go on display at the Beersheba Mall between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The truck, on a two-week tour of Israel, is equipped with photovoltaic solar panels, which produce electricity directly from the sun to operate different electrical appliances in it.

The tour is part of a global Greenpeace campaign to promote renewable energy sources to combat climate change.

The truck started its tour in Kiryat Shmona and is working its way southwards. Tomorrow it is expected to show up at Kibbutz Ketura until 1 p.m.; on Tuesday at Kibbutz Samar in the morning and the Yotvata tavern in the afternoon; ending in Eilat at the mall on Wednesday. Liat Collins

Cats being neutered in pilot project

The Environment Ministry has started a pilot project of neutering street cats in Herzliya and Kiryat Tivon. The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality runs a similar project.

The cats will also be vaccinated against rabies. While they are under anesthesia, the tip of their ears will be clipped to mark them.

"The ministry is convinced that spaying and castrating street cats and returning them to their natural habitat creates an important ecological balance and gets rid of many nuisances, like rodents," said ministry spokesman Yiftah Kramer. *Limor Glick*

Jordan promises coordination with PA

Jordanian Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday to discuss the latest Mideast peace accord and called on Israel to carry out its side of the deal.

On his first trip the Palestinian Authority areas since taking office in August, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh held two hours of talks with Arafat.

Arafat said the two men shared "positive and important talks that touched on many issues." He thanked Jordan for its cooperation on all issues.

"We will constantly coordinate on all issues that will help implementation," said Tarawneh. He called on Israel to do the same.

Jordan's King Hussein was instrumental in arranging the latest peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

The deal calls on the PA to crack down on militant groups within its territories.

Khaled Maashal, a senior figure in Hamas, lives in Jordan. Israel has often said orders for terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians come from there.

Maashal called last week for further Hamas strikes against Israel.

Asked whether Jordan plans to take measures against Hamas stationed in his country, Tarawneh said "Hamas has no leadership, no representation and no bases in Jordan."

In addition to Mideast peace, the two leaders discussed economic cooperation. (AP)



Down on the farm
Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon (second from left) welcomes Mauritanian Foreign Minister Sheikh El-Afia Wil'd Mohammed Khouna (right) to his sheep ranch in the Negev Desert. Khouna congratulated Israel for signing the Wye Memorandum and said he hoped it would be implemented according to schedule. "Both sides should respect the accords they have signed," Khouna told reporters. The two met for about an hour. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Zahar: Israel planning to kill Palestinian leaders

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Following the Wye Memorandum, "Israel might organize a wave of assassinations against both PA and Palestinian opposition figures, to get the plans agreed at Wye implemented by more malleable Palestinian elements," according to leading Hamas activist, Dr. Mahmud Zahar.

"This is a serious possibility," he wrote in the Saudi-owned weekly *Al-Majalla*, to be published in London today.

He suggested that Israel might also attempt to "get rid of [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat," to place control of the PA and its security forces into "more malleable hands."

Middle East analysts in London regard the specific references to violence against PA figures as highly significant, possibly indicating the growth of just such a trend within Hamas itself.

Moreover, they say, the suggestion of Israeli involvement in such acts could be an early attempt to establish an "alibi" for possible future action by Hamas activists against PA officials.

Zahar was prominent among the dozens of Palestinian radicals who were targeted for arrest by Arafat on Thursday, following the Gush Katif bombing.

In the article, apparently written just before Arafat ordered the roundup, Zahar declared that the Wye Memorandum represented a "humiliating retreat" by the PA.

HULDAI

Continued from Page 1

Rubin began his campaign by jogging on the Tel Aviv promenade at dawn, sporting a T-shirt saying "Meet Your New Mayor," but he soon ran out of steam. He also proposed measures to help animals, and then promised to carry out a long-debated plan to build a suburban train system.

Huldai made it his aim - and succeeded - to put the election campaign to sleep. He has ducked all efforts to get cornered into holding a televised debate with another candidate, and has instead won a reputation for being aloof, arrogant and elitist.

Huldai of course rejects this: "I am a man who grew up in the mud and who is used to such hard work as leading a pack of dogs and milking cows and plowing fields."

He insists voters that the Hazeria air base, which he commanded, had a bigger budget than Tel Aviv. His main pledge is to keep Tel Aviv safe as a national bastion of freedom, tolerance and openness. He promises to clean the city, to provide free parking for residents, to build a "user-friendly" rapid transit system based on electric minibuses. He also promises to improve the education system.

The election campaign may have left the residents of Tel Aviv cold, but it is not entirely devoid of entertainment - or at least, entertainment.

The first lady of Israeli theater and cinema, Gila Almagor, is number five on Huldai's list. Actor-comedian Shmuel Vilozny is also running as an underdog candidate for mayor.

Most of the comic relief is being provided by *Ma'ariv* columnist and comedian Yonatan Gefen, who is number two on the Open list of Cafe Tam owner Liam Frankfurt.

Gefen's platform includes calls to legalize some lighter drugs, to clean the beaches and the notorious Yarkon River and - Tel Avivians really appreciate this - bar taxi drivers from conversing with their passengers.

Perhaps because he spends much of his time in New York, Gefen has zeroed in on the painful, annoying things that residents have long given up complaining about.

Why can't the Jaffa clock show the right time? Gefen has asked. "The only thing Jaffa has is that clock. God damn it, just take those hands and point them to the right time," he is quoted as saying in a weekend interview with *Zman Tel Aviv*.

Another long-lingering malfunction Gefen wants fixed is the broken escalator in the busiest and smelliest underpass in the city - at the Davidka square on the junction of the Carmel market, Allenby Street and Sheinkin. Nobody can remember if the escalator has ever worked in its 20 years of existence.

"As far as I'm concerned, Tel Aviv is the capital of Israel - unless Peres divides it," said Gefen. "Since it is also the cultural center of the country, and where my shows are performed and my newspaper lives, why shouldn't I want to improve it? I don't recognize Jerusalem. In fact, I recommend keeping Jerusalem as the capital of fanatics: Hamas, Hizbullah, terrorists from Northern Ireland," said Gefen.

Dor Shalom is fielding a list for the city council. The movement's main promise is to revolutionize education by instituting a long school day. Borrowing Shas's tactics so as to oppose a baretti takeover, Dor Shalom is also planning after-school clubs and day-care centers for children in poor quarters.

Other mayoral candidates include Dan Darin, formerly of Merez, who is running for mayor

at the head of an independent list and is said to command around 3% support, and Yehudit Arad, with 1.4%.

Many Tel Avivians seem indifferent about the elections. After all the election promises, they expect to still wake up to traffic jams, noise, filthy streets and ever-worsening parking problems. Many point to some of the ugliness around them born of bad planning, decay and neglect. Every now and then, a flood of sewage pours into the sea, contaminating beaches nearly as badly as the Yarkon.

"The first thing a mayor should do is clean the city and provide parking spaces for residents," says Ziva Majar, 45. "They all promise that, like they promise rapid transit. Nobody does a thing. Something really must be done to revive Dizengoff, which has been dying for years."

Other residents have complained of having to walk on the road because cars fill up the sidewalks, of treading in dog excrement which dog-owners refuse to scoop up, of low water pressure from the fourth floor up, congested traffic and late-night noise.

The next municipal races in the series are: Jerusalem, Mevasseret Zion and Beit Shemesh.

The Center for German Studies at the Ben Gurion University of Beer Sheva, the Minerva Center for German History at the University of Tel Aviv, the Franz Rosenzweig Research Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History at the University of Jerusalem and the German Embassy in Israel would like to announce the following

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Beer Sheva, 03 / 11 / 1998, 02.00 - 04.00 p.m.

Literary lunch:
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Center for German Studies (Tel: 07-846 11 48).

Tel Aviv, 04 / 11 / 1998, 12.00 - 01.00 p.m.

Academical discussion:
„Teilung: Andere Welten. Vereinigung, Bilanz und Ausblick einer neuen gesamtdeutschen Identität.“
Minerva Center for German History (by invitation).

Jerusalem, 05 / 11 / 1998, 13.45 - 03.00 p.m.

Lecture with following discussion:
„Befindlichkeiten und Empfindlichkeiten 9 Jahre danach. Deutsche Schriftsteller in Ost und West.“
Franz Rosenzweig Research Center (by invitation).

Lectures are in German language.

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 - Naor Shomrai - student
 - Taha Asali - citizen of Jaffa
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 - Dana Neuman Barak - marketing manager of food products company
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 - Ruth Zohar - member, workers' committee, Electric Corp.
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 - Natanel Matalon - former ambassador in Uruguay and city councilor
 - Shoshana Shiffman - chairman, Tel Aviv Wizo appeal fund
 - Uriel Lynn, Adv. - business manager, former chairman, Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee



Pollard to Mordechai: You betrayed your country

American spy Jonathan Pollard has accused Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of scuttling a bid to win his release, calling him a national disgrace.

Pollard, a formal US naval intelligence analyst who is serving a life sentence in the United States for passing secrets to Israel, said Mordechai undermined Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to link his release with the Middle East peace deal reached last week at Wye Plantation in Maryland.

Mordechai, a retired army general, denied the allegation, saying he

spared no effort to secure Pollard's release.

"General Mordechai, for two years you have done everything in your power to avoid the issue of Jonathan Pollard. For two years you have disgraced the uniform you wear and you have betrayed the oath you took to your country," said Pollard, 40, in remarks broadcast late on Friday on Channel 2 television.

"You've betrayed an agent in the field in the most disgraceful and unacceptable way any officer could possibly do, by stabbing your own prime minister in the back during

the recent negotiations at Wye.

"I feel very sorry for you, but I feel even more sorry and more upset for our country that a man such as you is occupying the position that you do. I worked for you. You are my boss. You are responsible for me," he said in an interview from his prison cell in North Carolina.

Pollard became a last-minute stumbling block to the interim accord reached on October 23 at a Wye Plantation summit after nine days of mediation by President Bill Clinton.

Netanyahu delayed the signing of

the accord by several hours, demanding that Pollard's release be included in the deal.

Government critics said Netanyahu hoped Pollard's release would help mute criticism of the accord.

"I can say in all honesty that in personal conversations I had with President Clinton...I asked and even begged that Jonathan Pollard be allowed to live with us," Mordechai said in response to the criticism.

"I would like to see him released and living here with us in Israel," he told Channel 2. (Reuters)

German banks face new Holocaust lawsuit

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Several German banks, including Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and Commerzbank face a new class action suit filed in New York on behalf of Holocaust victims, a Deutsche Bank spokesman said yesterday.

"It is true that a new class action suit has been filed in which Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank

and Commerzbank have been named," Armin Nidermeier said.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in US District Court in Brooklyn by attorney Mel Weiss against Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and others.

Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank have already been named in another lawsuit filed in New York in June that charged that the banks

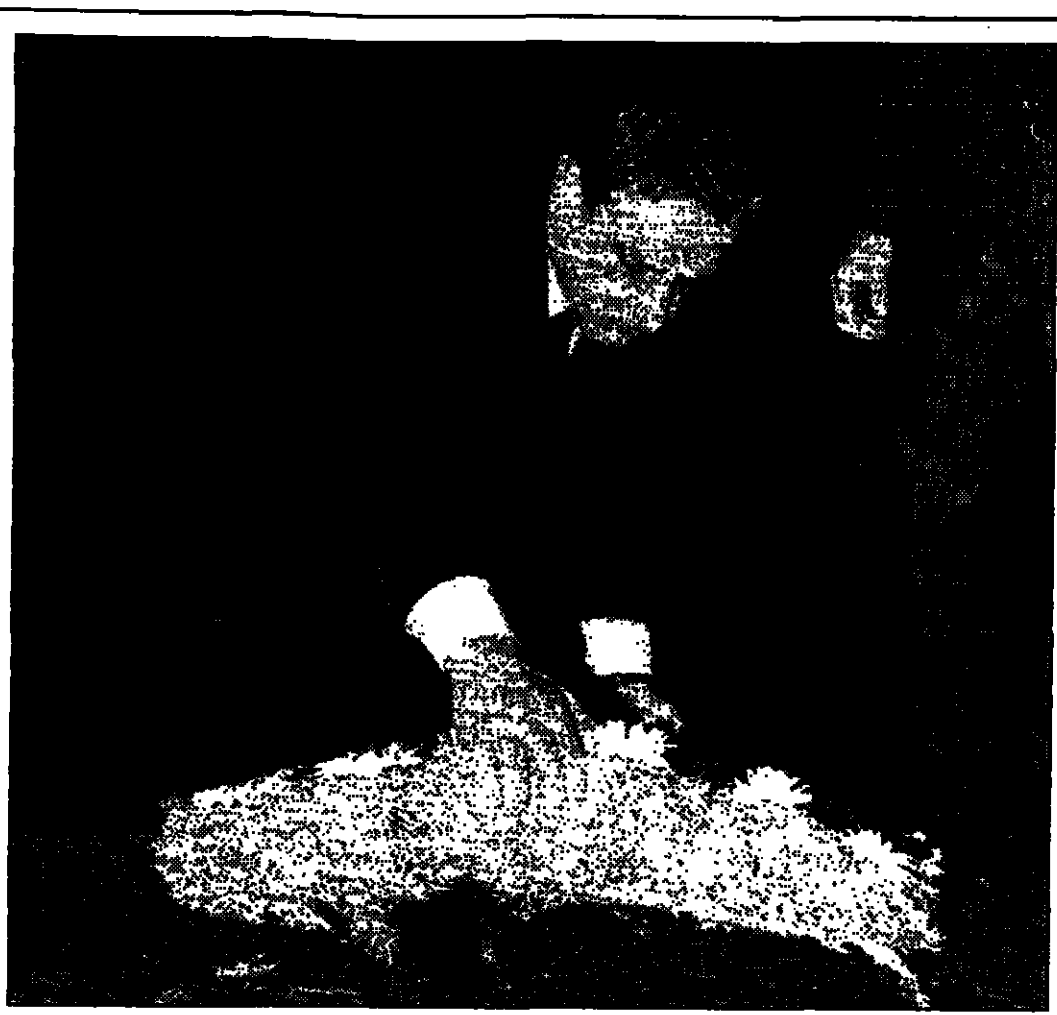
knowingly traded in looted personal property of concentration camp victims.

Welt am Sonntag magazine said yesterday in an advance copy of today's edition that unlike the \$18 billion class action suit filed by US lawyer Ed Fagan, the latest lawsuit had the support of the World Jewish Congress.

Welt am Sonntag said that so far

German banks had failed to find a compromise solution with the World Jewish Congress, which would allow to settle with Holocaust victims out of court.

Reached in New York, WJC executive director Elan Steinberg confirmed Weiss had filed a new lawsuit, but declined to comment on whether either one had WJC backing.



In remembrance

Visiting Armenian Foreign Minister Varten Oskanian lays a wreath Friday at Yad Vashem. (Isaac Harari)

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Hirschfeld hands Paula Jones \$1m.

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York real estate tycoon Abe Hirschfeld handed Paula Jones a check for \$1 million yesterday that would become part of an overall settlement of her sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton.

Susan Carpenter MacMillan, a spokeswoman for the former Arkansas state worker, said there was no deal yet. But she said the Hirschfeld move should prompt the White House to "negotiate in good faith." Hirschfeld led Jones in by the arm to a news conference and kissed her cheek before handing her the check. He said he gave her the money so that Clinton could "have a clear head" in dealing with the nation's problems. He declined to say whether the timing of yesterday's announcement had anything to do with Tuesday's mid-term elections.

Jones said, with a wide smile, "Thank you very much," and declined to make any further comment.

The check was made out to

Jones, the law firm of Radar, Campbell, Fisher, and Pyke, and other parties, including John Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute, which has helped finance her lawsuit.

Hirschfeld said the money had already been transferred. But his lawyer, Harvard Holmberg, said the payment to Jones was conditioned on her reaching a settlement with the president. Hirschfeld also declined to say what would happen to the money if no settlement is reached.

An attorney in the Jones camp had said Friday the arrangement with Hirschfeld was "a precursor to negotiations" with Clinton's lawyers.

"And then negotiations will begin with (Clinton attorney Robert Bennett), and I don't think it will take very long," said the lawyer, suggesting there might be "some common meeting ground" over money.

The lawyer said Mrs. Jones' attorneys would make a new overture to Clinton tomorrow. So far there has been no comment from the president's lawyers, and they offered none yesterday.



Paula Jones gets a kiss from New York real estate tycoon Abe Hirschfeld yesterday after he gave her a check for \$1 million at a news conference in Washington. (AP)

Russia passes crisis plan after IMF rebuff

By PATRICK LAMIN

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia yesterday approved an economic recovery plan which has already been rejected by the International Monetary Fund for shifting away from free markets.

Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov defended the measures, which he hopes will haul Russia out of financial crisis.

He denied they were a rejection of market economy, but said the depth of the country's troubles meant more state intervention was needed.

"Especially when one is coming out of a crisis situation, it is necessary to take all the measures for regulation, there is a special need to strengthen the regulatory role of the state," Primakov told a news conference.

Russia vitally needs IMF credits, but a mission from the Fund left Moscow on Friday after 10 days of fruitless talks without approving the release of \$4.3 billion promised in June to the previous government.

The news agency Interfax quoted a government expert as saying the IMF had criticized the economic plan as a "significant step backwards" in forming a market economy.

The IMF experts were against increased state intervention, wanted a reduction of government spending, and saw plans to rescue many failing banks as unrealistic, Interfax said.

Primakov said IMF credits were not necessary to carry out the plan but that he was still counting on help from the Fund.

Russia faces \$17 billion in external debt repayments next year and is still struggling to work out how to repay billions of dollars of domestic debt.

The IMF said talks could resume if there was a "program which could be supported by the international community" and that the government needed to draw up a "realistic" 1999 budget.

"While there was a common view on the desirable objectives for economic policy through the end of next year, the necessary

policy measures are still under consideration," the Fund said.

Primakov argued that many countries, including the US and Germany, had gone through a stage when the state took a strong hand in order better to form an economy run along market lines.

"The role of the state, especially in such a serious period as that which Russia is going through, consists of bringing about economic order," Primakov said.

"Without doubt, the market will remain," he added.

Primakov said increased state control meant making sure payments were made from the budget, that taxes were paid and that the shadow economy was stamped out.

Communist First Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov is the main brains behind the crisis plan, which is earlier drafts called for "state" regulation in many areas of the economy and direct intervention to help domestic industry and banks.

The government has already introduced state control of the production and distribution of alcohol.

Officials say arson possible in disco fire

By PAUL DE BENDERN

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (Reuters) — Swedish officials said yesterday there was a 50-50 chance that arson was the cause of a devastating fire that swept through an overcrowded disco killing 60 young people.

Asked if the fire at the immigrants' center on Thursday night may have been deliberately started, Gothenburg's Chief prosecutor Ulf Noren said: "We don't know at the moment. I think it's a 50-50 chance."

The fire in the city's Macedonian cultural center also injured 170 people, some of them critically. Most of the people at the disco were immigrants, some as young as 13.

Gothenburg police commissioner Hans Karlsson told Reuters the police were considering the possibility the blaze was a racist attack, but added: "At the moment we don't believe this is the case."

Earlier police said they were not ruling out arson because of the speed with which the fire engulfed

the room. Hospital officials told a news conference that of the injured, 20 were fighting for their lives in intensive care units while about a dozen were flown to burn centers around Scandinavia.

Many suffered serious injuries when they rushed to escape the smoke and flames. Some were crushed squeezing out of the room's only usable exit while others jumped from the second-story windows. Some broke limbs or necks on impact.

Survivors and rescuers told how hundreds of terrified youths tried to squeeze through the exit and how bodies tumbled out of the building.

"A 15-year-old died while I held him in my arms. A young girl that I had pulled out died without anyone being able to do anything about it," Abbas Kazim, 28, told the daily *Expressen*.

In one small room, rescuers found 20 to 30 crushed bodies tangled together. They said they had probably died after inhaling toxic fumes.

WORLD

in brief

Mbeki denies rift with Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki denied yesterday that he and President Nelson Mandela were divided over the ruling African National Congress' bitter reaction to a report on apartheid-era abuses.

The long-awaited report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission blames the ANC for gross human rights violations during its anti-apartheid struggle, saying the group tortured suspected spies and dissidents and killed innocent civilians with land mines and bombs.

Mbeki, who became ANC president last year and will probably be elected South Africa's next president in 1999, took a hard line yesterday against the report, and indicated that all ANC members must do the same.

Schroeder asks Bundesbank to spur growth

DUISBURG, (Reuters) — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder yesterday stepped up pressure on the country's fiercely independent central bank, calling on the Bundesbank to heed its responsibility for economic growth.

"It doesn't only have responsibility for monetary stability, but also for economic growth that is made in a sensible way," said Schroeder. "We expect that this will be understood."

Malaysian ex-minister faces corruption trials

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Sacked Malaysian finance minister Anwar Ibrahim will be tried on additional sex charges after facing two trials on corruption and sodomy which are expected to last at least eight months, the chief prosecutor said yesterday.

In two successive trials which go to the heart of Malaysia's political unrest, Anwar faces five counts of corruption and five of sodomy, all of which he denies. The first corruption trial begins on Monday. Malaysia's Attorney-General Mohar Abdullah was quoted by the official Bernama news agency as saying the second would begin in December and not finish before June.

Catholic man slain as peace deadline passes

BELFAST (AP) — Northern Ireland's rival politicians missed the first key deadline of their peace agreement yesterday, a day marked by the killing of a Catholic man as he walked home alone near a Protestant area of Belfast.

Brian Service, a van driver in his mid-30s, was shot twice in the back of the head and three times in the back. No group claimed responsibility, but local Catholic residents and politicians blamed pro-British extremists from nearby Protestant turf.

The killing coincided with the first missed deadline specified in April's peace accord. It envisaged that a new Northern Ireland government of Protestants and Catholics would hold an inaugural summit with the Irish Republic's government by the end of October.

N. Korea approves venture with South

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has approved multi-million dollar business ventures with longtime rival South Korea in a meeting with the founder of the South's largest conglomerate.

"General Kim Jong Il and I agree to do everything that will benefit both countries," Chung Ju-yung, 84, honorary chairman of the Hyundai group, told journalists in the neutral village of Panmunjom yesterday. Returning yesterday across the heavily guarded border from his five-day visit to the isolated communist state, Chung described the 56-year-old Kim as a "very kind and respectful young man." Chung is the first known outsider to meet with Kim since he completed his ascension to power in September.

Mon Dieu! Halloween is latest American invasion in France

PARIS — Halloween has arrived in France with a vengeance this year, sending a shiver down the backs of politicians and intellectuals who see it as the latest US drive to capture the spirit of the nation's young.

Pumpkins are plastered across advertising billboards, shop windows are full of spooky and ghouls, and even France Telecom has leapt on the Halloween bandwagon to sell its mobile phones.

"The American pumpkin has quite literally invaded our country," conservative daily *Le Figaro* said yesterday in an article entitled "Halloween, or the great Yankee invasion."

"I am staggered by the enthusiasm with which we have accepted, even embraced the Halloween tradition," Philippe Seguin, the leader of French President Jacques Chirac's conservative RPR party, said this week. "As far as I am concerned this is all part of cultural globalization which, from our point of view, is a menace," he said in an interview with the France 2 television station.

French writer Francois Taillandier saw it as the latest US-inspired plot to subvert European culture, following on from rap music, McDonald burgers and Hollywood domination of the cinema.

"By now America is seeking to reform our entire daily life," he wrote. "And note well that they are especially targeting our children," he warned.

US companies such as Coca-Cola, McDonalds and Disney have led 16,900 billboards across France for a poster campaign which features a pair of translucent Coke-swilling ghosts, while the Euro Disney theme park near Paris has organized two weeks of Halloween events.

Le Figaro said modern-day Halloween made a mockery of old European religious traditions and trivialized death. (Reuters)

DEIF

Continued from Page 1

"They have to take all the necessary steps to fight terror. That's the most important thing," Sharon told reporters. "If that will not be done, nothing will be moving forward."

Since the attack, more than 100 Hamas activists, including senior members, have been arrested. Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was put under house arrest and his phone line was cut.

Yassin, who returned to Gaza a year ago after his release from an Israeli jail, gave a series of interviews before his house arrest in which he called the Wye accord "worthless" and vowed it would not stop Hamas attacks.

Meanwhile, furious over the crackdown, Hamas on Friday accused the PA of trying to destroy it.

In a statement faxed to news organizations, the group also praised Thursday's suicide bombing as a "heroic operation."

"These oppressive measures are the real face and clear explanation of the Wye Plantation agreement," it said.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat vowed yesterday to do everything in his power to fight militants and curb terrorism.

"As you know, there have been military, terrorist attacks. The latest was aimed at a school bus. Thank God, an armored jeep received the blow," and not the bus, Arafat said, speaking to

reporters in Ramallah. The PA maintains its stand that the security working paper, which is to specifically detail the plan for combating terrorism, is being completed and will be submitted as promised, by tomorrow. Arafat's cabinet approved the Wye agreement Friday.

"We are committed next week to sharing our security plan with the Americans. This does not mean submitting the plan to Israel or to anybody else," said senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

US Embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz said the US knew the Palestinians were working on the security paper, and fully expected them to meet their commitments.

A senior US official added that "intensified Palestinian efforts to ensure security" after the Thursday bombing were evident.

Responding to a *Jerusalem Post* report that Netanyahu is planning to make public a series of side letters clarifying US commitments to Israel and expectations from the Palestinians connected with the Wye Memorandum, the official said that such letters exist, and that they were written at the request of the Israelis.

The Palestinians did not ask for such additional clarifications, and so did not receive any, added the official.

Also yesterday, Netanyahu tried to debunk the idea that he was, in any way, following in the footsteps of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We are not continuing the path of the Labor Party," said Netanyahu, who was asked why he did not mention Rabin in his speech at the White House signing ceremony.

"We were against the Oslo Agreement. Today, we continue to think this was a bad agreement, but we inherited it and, as we said before the elections, we will fulfill it, and do all we can to reduce its harm," he continued.

"What we did at Wye was to reduce the harm of Oslo, to lessen the withdrawal, to reach a third redeployment of 1 percent. This is not in the spirit of Labor, which was willing to give much more," Netanyahu said.

Margot Dukatch adds: Residents of the Gush Katif settlement Morag said last night that they would keep their children home from school until the IDF secures a portion of their bus route that goes through a Palestinian-controlled area.

Gush Katif spokesman Shlomo Kostiner said that more communities may join the boycott.

"Children from Morag who go to school at Alzmona and Neve Dekalim pass through an area under Palestinian control. The specific part of the trip takes three minutes, but parents fear that what happened last week may repeat itself again," he said.

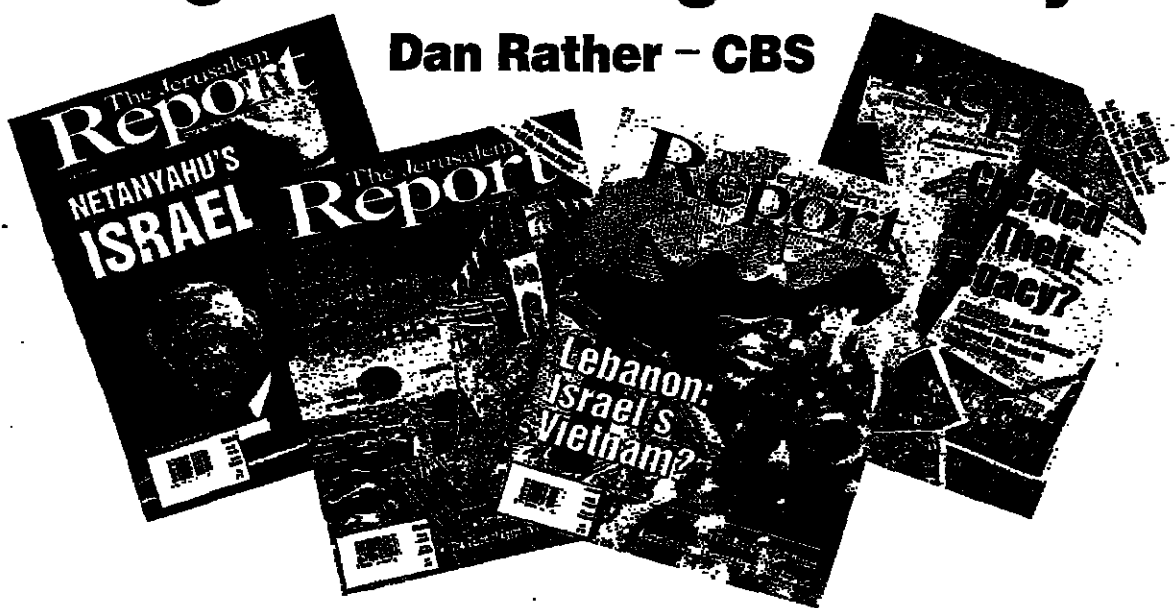
According to Kostiner, the IDF had turned down a request to "sterilize" the problematic area.

Mohammed Najib and news agencies contributed to this report.

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STRATEGIC

Continued from Page 1

"The importance of this cooperation was brought home by recent developments, such as Iran's test in July of the Shihab-3 medium range ballistic missile," said US Embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz.

Uzi Arad, Netanyahu's advisor on foreign affairs, said that the planned cooperation was of "great importance to Israel's security."

The immediate consequence of the agreement is that a joint, high-level, inter-agency committee is to begin meeting to formulate recommendations on future cooperation. In the long term, the agreement is

of great importance, and signals a serious upgrading of the Israeli-US relationship. The last strategic agreement signed between the countries was over 10 years ago, and was not as strongly worded. The last agreement did not, for example, even recognize Israel's deterrence capabilities, let alone promise support for them.

Both US and Israeli officials denied the agreement was a direct outcome of the Wye Plantation talks, or of Israel's willingness to sign an agreement with the Palestinians.

In addition, implementation of the pact does not depend on whether Wye is carried out.

According to a top Israeli official, the matter of upgrading relations

has been on the table for over a year, and this new deal - while discussed at length at Wye - was only clinched Friday.

As part of the agreement, the US commits itself to view with "particular gravity direct threats to Israel's security arising from the regional deployment of ballistic missiles."

In the event of such a threat, the memorandum states, "... the US government would consult promptly with the government of Israel with respect to what support, diplomatic or otherwise, or assistance, it can lend to Israel."

Although this is not a mutual defense treaty, other countries - particularly neighboring Arab countries - will most likely view this pact with great suspicion.

LAND

Continued from Page 1

Civil Administration officials have already planned around 10 bypass roads that are to be paved as part of the implementation of the interim agreement.

Some of the roads are small, like the Za'ara bypass route to the settlement of El-David. Others are major highways, like the one linking Ma'aleh Adumim with Arad.

According to the Arutz 7 radio station, work on the bypass road at El-Arub and the Trans-Samaria Highway is to start this morning. The station reported that the Treasury on Friday allocated NIS

250 million to paving the bypass roads.

But senior Defense Ministry officials are pessimistic about ever getting the funding. They claim they have never received the extra funding promised to them for carrying out Operation Rainbow, the initial redeployment in the territories.

Still, Civil Administration officials said that they are concentrating their efforts on improving security for the settlements, particularly the 60-odd settlements which will remain relatively isolated if and when the second redeployment goes through.

The aim is to build fences, security roads and even walls to prevent sniping around the settlements.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

However, some changes in the political environment may yet surprise the Iraqi dictator, and not for the first time. Having weathered the embarrassment of the Lewinsky affair, Clinton's approval rating in polls has gone up.

The successful effort that forced Yugoslavian dictator Slobodan Milosevic to withdraw troops from Kosovo is an important precedent.

In addition, after the Wye Memorandum, it will be very difficult for the US's Arab allies -

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait - to use the excuse of an impasse in the peace process to avoid supporting action against Iraq.

In other words, if the Iraqi declaration regarding the end of cooperation with the UN inspectors is matched by any action to implement it, such as harassing the inspectors or expelling them, the US will be pressed to react.

The ball is again in Clinton's court. If he fails to respond again, the game will be over, with a victory for Saddam; and an instant jump in the level of instability in the Middle East.

The writer is an arms control expert at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

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Why people agree on Zehava

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tzur

In the complex tangle of Sephardi-Ashkenazi relationships, Zehava Ben comes off as something of a unique figure. Ben is arguably the most popular female vocalist in the Mizrahi genre, one of the main practitioners

HABAYTA LAHZOR
Zehava Ben
(NMC)

ers of the "Turkish" style of singing which has come to dominate Oriental music in the '90s. At the same time, she has begun to win over substantial audiences among Ashkenazi music lovers, a phenomenon which one might trace back to the last elections when Ben and Dana Berger performed for Meretz campaign spots.

It has become fashionable for Mizrahi singers to complain loudly about Ashkenazi cultural domination. Witness Eyal Golan's recent grousing in the newspapers after Army Radio failed to name him Singer of the Year. (Golan's "Tears," it should be noted, was ranked No. 1 on IDF Radio's year-end hit parade.)

Ben, on the other hand, has chosen the road of unity, quietly exploring the different components which make up the Israeli musical mosaic.

On one level her latest release, *Habayta Lahzor* ("Coming Home"), can be seen as an extension of this exploration. On another

level, the album is another example of the nostalgia wave prevalent in Israeli music today. *Coming Home* presents new versions of Israeli standards from the 1950s and '60s.

Among the selections on the album one finds two based on poems by Natan Alterman, "The Song of the Three Returns" and "Night, Night." The idea to do an album of covers appears to have come from "The Song of the Three Returns," which was originally recorded by Rivka Zohar in the 1960s. Ben's reworking of that song originally appeared on the *Avoda Ivrit* project earlier this year.

In taking on these covers, Ben explores songs which are directly associated with the Israeli cultural establishment, songs written by the likes of Yoram Teicher-Lev and Nurit Hirsh. With the help of producers Robby Ben-Shimon and Nancy Brandes, Ben takes these songs and filters them through her own Middle Eastern musical sensibilities. This can be seen by the use of Oriental guitar work and violins.

The Mizrahi sound comes out most clearly with Ben's singing style. Her voice is, to put it mildly, a bit of an acquired taste. New listeners may initially be put off by her trilling and ululating. Her vocals, however, are quite soulful and add a new dimension to these tunes.

This is especially true on tracks such as "What Do Your Eyes Say" and "What Shall I Wish." The latter is one of the sadder Israeli standards, a song in which an angel watches over a small child and wonders what will become of him.

The tune generally gets heavy airplay around Memorial Day. Ben's version, the combination of her voice and the unique violin work, gives it a quality that is both eerie and touching.

In addition to the covers, *Coming Home* features a bonus track, "Forbidden Love." The

track is the theme song from the movie of the same name. Here, Ben experiments with a combination of Arabic music and Trip Hop. Ben's singing style is backed by a slow dance beat and Portishead-style orchestral flourishes.

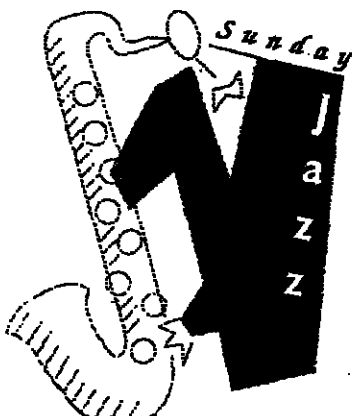
Ben recently recorded a second version of "Forbidden Love" in Arabic. In addition to her Mizrahi records, Ben has explored Arabic music extensively, working with the Haifa Orchestra in the past on songs of Om Kalthom. All this has made her quite popular with the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian sectors as well.

As the different groups in the country drift into acrimony and finger-pointing, Ben becomes one of the few singers that most people can agree on. At this rate, she may end up the region's biggest star.



(Ozari Kramanski)

When Joshua blows his mighty horn



By David Isaacson

Joshua Redman is often called the world's greatest saxman. So a new Redman disc of standards is bound to be a major event. *Timeless Tales (For Changing Times)* covers the 20th-century

TIMELESS TALES
(FOR CHANGING TIMES)
Joshua Redman
(Red Artz)

SONGS: THE ART
OF THE TRIO
VOL. 3
Brad Mehldau
(Red Artz)

garnet, from Gershwin
("Summertime") and Berlin
("How Deep is the Ocean")

through '60s pop icons Dylan ("The Times They Are A-Changin'") and Joni Mitchell ("I Had a King") to the '80s with Prince ("How Come U Don't Call Me Anymore").

These days such eclecticism is quite common, as is each player's freedom to indulge in long solos. What is less common is the quality of this quartet.

Since the mid-'60s, virtually every sax player on the planet has wanted to emulate John Coltrane. Redman, the 26-year-old son of saxman Dewey Redman, is the one in a million who does, on tenor, alto and soprano. To give but one example from *Timeless Tales*, he covers "Eleanor Rigby" in the spirit of Coltrane playing "My Favorite Things." Whereas other interpreters of The Beatles' ballad have emphasized the maudlin (Vanilla Fudge) or the fantastic (The Garcia Band), Redman's version is a tribute to the song's lyricism. You could listen to this nearly nine-minute cover again and again, discovering, as the cliché goes, new things each time.

Redman nonchalantly states the basic, dramatically melancholy chorus before taking off, like Coltrane, into a fanciful flight of breathtaking beauty and occasional intensity. Taking the second solo, pianist Brad Mehldau ventures elegantly, deliberately, into

various rhythmic possibilities before, bassist Larry Grenadier briefly gets down in an understated spot. On his reprise, Redman returns to "all the lonely people" in a lamentation all the more haunting for its references to his previous motifs. I hope Sir Paul gets to hear this.

A particularly interesting feature of *Timeless Tales* is the way Redman fills the spaces between the tracks with short "interludes." These give an already rich disc an extra texture of segues.

These particular *Timeless Tales* will doubtless be played for many years to come. More immediately, expect it to be voted jazz disc of the year wherever such awards are made.

ON SONGS: *The Art of the Trio Vol. 3* pianist Brad Mehldau develops the slow, thoughtful style at which he hints on *Timeless Tales*. These 10 tracks showcase a sensibility more European than American, so it's little wonder that Mehldau divides American critics. While

some complain that he's cold, and doesn't swing or provide a foot-tapping beat, others rave about his emotional depth and musical range.

Unlike the many musicians who feel the need to pontificate, he is introducing a genre to a wider audience, or against racism, sexism and capitalism, Mehldau concentrates on expressing himself. At the tender age of 26, Mehldau is cerebral and passionate at the same time, his overriding sense of bitter-sweet melancholia punctuated by moments of modest joy.

Playing mostly his own compositions, Mehldau often visits the faded-fairground landscape of Fellini's great composer Nino Rota. (Americans prefer to compare him with Bill Evans.) Indeed *Songs* is so exquisitely realized, it could be a soundtrack in itself. As it is, one of the stand-out cuts is an atmospheric cover of Radiohead's "Exit Music (For a Film)." Of the other covers, I'd sooner hear this moody, laconic rendition of "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" than Ella Fitzgerald's (heretic though that makes me); and this "Young at Heart" is so sad, you'd think it would touch even the most dogmatic of jaded jazz critics.

Supported in his vision by bassist Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy, Mehldau really does put the art back into the trio.



Joshua Redman embarks on flights of breathtaking beauty.

New series puts zest back into the Baroque

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Mostly Baroque is a name of a new series of early-music concerts performed by international ensembles specializing in making music on authentic instruments. The series, presented by impresario Carla Kimbi at various locales from Mizra and Peki'in in the north to Ashkelon in the south, features five different concerts and opens later this month with "Tavagna," a program of secular and sacred a cappella songs from Corsica performed by six male singers whose fusion of Byzantine and Roman Catholic music and Semitic vocal ornamentations is quite captivating.

Further programs include a concert of songs of life and love from the 13th century presented by singers from London's Trinity College directed by Philip Thorby. The program titled "Carmina Burana" is coupled with Jewish and Arab musicians performing on historical instruments.

Next January comes a program of music by Bach, Handel, Telemann and other German baroque composers performed by countertenor Markus Forster, flutist Michael Martin Koffler and

harpist Johann Maria Bogner. Israeli musicians are also featured in this new exciting series, albeit in tandem with visiting ensembles. The first book of madrigals for four voices by Salamone Rossi will be performed by Israeli and Italian musicians in February, and in March Belgian tenor Guy de Mey sings motets and madrigals from the baroque with several local musicians.

Mostly Baroque is a daring, energetic and invigorating series in which relatively unknown ensembles present music which is not very familiar here. But it is this specific choice of ensembles and programs which gives this series its zest and panache.

The concerts are presented as a series at the Enav Cultural Center in Tel Aviv (Saturday at 6 p.m.), at the House of Grace Church in Haifa (Friday at 9:30 p.m.) and in Kibbutz Mizra as well as at other locales including several concerts presented in Jerusalem within the auspices of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA. Single ticket prices for these concerts are NIS 80 (NIS 60 for soldiers and pensioners.) Subscribers get a 20% reduction (one concert free).

Local guitar fest turns 15

By HELEN KAYE

Impresario and guitar enthusiast Giora Noor is a quiet phenomenon. He busily heaves away all year and in November, as sure as roasting chestnuts, he pulls another guitar festival into being with minimal fuss, minimal funding and mostly maximal enjoyment.

This year's festival, the 15th, is no exception and features the usual complement of classical, jazz, blues and flamenco guitarists from here and abroad.

The Katona Twins, an identical pair from Hungary and winners of the guitar duo competition in Montelimar, play a concert of Scarlatti, Sor, Rodrigo and Albéniz.

Another award-winning classical guitarist is Cuba's Joaquin Clerch whose program also includes works by modern composers such as Brouwer and Farnas.

Local guitarist Eli Seruya and friends fill the world-music slot while another local boy, Meir Michael and his combo, play a musical salute to the great Wes Montgomery.

Italy is probably the last country you'd expect to produce blues players, but guitarist/singer Carlo Ambrosio and harmonica player

Fabrizio Frosi spent a lot of years in the US and they play country. This year's flamenco comes from Flamenco Andaluz and features a quintet from Seville in Spain.

There are also the local stalwarts who play at every festival, like Baldi Olier, Reuven Seroussi - also a prize-winning composer - Ori Lavan, troubadour Hezi Levi, funk and fusion devotee Eyal Freeman and his quartet, and more.

Of all the local festivals, this one

probably gets the least funding. The budget overall is NIS 400,000, of which some NIS 30,000 comes from the Arts and Culture Authority.

The festival will be hosted by the Enav Center in Tel Aviv from November 19 to 30.

There are various packages available including one for NIS 450 which covers all the concerts (including the specials). Single tickets range in price from NIS 45 to NIS 85.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	EYAL GOLAN	CHAYAL SHEI AHAVA
#2	2	ZEHAVA BEN	HABAYTA LAHZOR
#3	3	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#4	12	LAURYN HILL	MISEDUCATION OF ALABAMA
#5	9	3 TENORS	LIVE PARIS 1998
#6	5	SAVAGE GARDEN	SAVAGE GARDEN
#7	15	EHUD BANAI	TIP TIPA
#8	6	ANKAR/DA'OR	LIVE TOGETHER
#9	RE	SUZY	HERENCIA
#10	7	DANA	50TH INDEPENDENCE
#11	21	VIA	DIVA
#12	NEW	VIA	VH1 DIVAS LIVE
#13	NEW	VIA	PAVAROTTI & FRIENDS
#14	11	JULIO IGLESIAS	MY LIFE

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

So you want to be a TV writer

By BRIAN LOWRY

American television executives often lament how diluted the writing pool has become - that having six broadcast networks churning out original series has made the quest for talented writers akin to pursuing the Holy Grail.

Such comments not surprisingly aggravate those on the outside looking in, especially eager young writers convinced that, given the opportunity, they could write for *Friends* or create the next *Ally McBeal*, and older writers seemingly discarded by a youth-obsessed business.

At the same time, industry officials can embarrass themselves chasing, lemming-like, after the next hot property. A kid just out of college - or even a 32-year-old woman masquerading as someone of college age - can land a job on the writing staff of a new program that caters to teenagers.

Riley Weston, the aforementioned 32-year-old writer for the WB network's *Felicity*, whose ruse was uncovered last month, appeared disingenuous crying "ageism" when her act of deception was exposed; still, experienced writers seized on the story as a sign of the industry's all-consuming emphasis on youth. Middle-aged writers maintain they can't get arrested, although few press such charges, fearing that to do so would only alienate potential employers and call attention to their gray hairs or bald spots.

An offhand reference to the perceived talent shortage a few weeks ago prompted several messages from people asking why, if writers are at such a premium, it's so hard for newcomers to get in the door.

"The problems the networks face are of their own making," said Mike Korytowski, who works at Falcon Cable in Los Angeles and has thus far been unable to get an agent. "Want fresh material? Open the drawbridge and let some original ideas flow over the moat and into the tower."

Added Susan Stewart Potter, a Santa Barbara writer: "I wonder if you have any idea what it takes to get anybody in network TV to consider a writer that they've not worked with before, or to take a chance on something that is a little outside the completely predictable?"

Before analyzing these observations, a few facts must be put in evidence. First, the pool of established writing talent has indeed found itself stretched thin by the glut of programming available.

The six US networks opened the current prime-time season with 53 situation comedies and 40 one-hour dramas - a list that doesn't include the many original programs produced for cable or syndication. In 1986, before the Fox network signed on, three networks offered 29 sitcoms and 35 dramas.

It's also worth noting that those within the industry cite a shortage of good writers. Not every script or aspiring writer merits a place in the sun - a point vividly made a few years

ago by a woman who discussed the fabulous sitcom she had in her about herself and her friends, who laughed and laughed when they were together.

Here's a bulletin: Most people have a good time when they hang around with their friends. If they were miserable, one hopes they would stop hanging around with them.

Like any field with limited resources, television has forged barriers to keep out new people who desire admission to the club. This isn't a novel concept, as any aspiring doctor enduring 36-hour medical rotations can tell you. Lawyers don't make the bar exam an ordeal because they want whoever happens to wander in off the street to join their ranks.

That said, nepotism obviously plays a part. In a business where every judgment is subjective, it's no wonder the sons, daughters and siblings of those in positions of power get an inordinate amount of work.

Yet those within the television business who read hundreds of scripts insist there is a genuine shortage of people with the aptitude to write and produce TV shows - as literary agent Chris Silbermann noted, often disparate skills. Whatever people may think, they say, the process isn't as easy as it looks, and executing an idea is far more significant than the concept itself.

A group who hangs out in a bar, after all, can become Fox's recently canceled *Costello*, or a long-running hit like *Cheers*. A show about four dysfunctional friends doesn't sound terribly interesting unless filtered through writer Larry David and co-creator Jerry Seinfeld.

The problem with television, unlike law or medicine, is that its shortcomings are so painfully obvious. Who needs training, viewers doubtless wonder, when athletes with marbles in their mouths walk directly from the playing field into broadcast booths and acting jobs?

Very little of what gets on the air reaches a level of quality likely to dissuade people from feeling they can write their own show. Creating a *Law & Order* or *ER* episode from scratch might present a daunting challenge, but casual viewers can watch the WB's dreadful *The Army Show* or last season's CBS comedy *Meego* and mutter, "Hey, how much worse could I really do?"

Entertainment-industry officials aren't lying when they talk about being eager to find people capable of creating the next blockbuster movie or award-winning sitcom, but they go about that task in a way that must seem peculiar to those seeking the chance.

The race features hurdles, water hazards, a brick wall and no discernible starting line. In addition, plan on beginning at least 20 paces behind the field if you don't know, or aren't related to, someone holding a starter's pistol.

If that sounds unfair, it's also precisely the way the folks running ahead of you want it. Just ask your doctor or lawyer.

(Los Angeles Times)

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- ♦ Research and development of defense equipment.
- ♦ Financing special instruction in safe driving for soldiers holding civilian licenses, in order to reduce accidents by soldiers on leave.
- ♦ Other aims which contribute to Israel's security.

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Saddam tries again

Iraq's decision to end all dealings with the United Nations Special Commission's weapons inspectors is absolutely unacceptable, but no surprise. No inspections have been carried out for three months, so it was inevitable that Saddam Hussein would conclude that the time is ripe to raise his acts of defiance another notch.

Now Iraq has decided it can again flout Security Council resolutions with impunity. It is also flouting the memorandum of agreement he signed with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan earlier this year - a piece of paper which turned out to be as useless as the infamous "peace in our time" piece of paper that gave Adolf Hitler a breathing space to prepare for new acts of aggression.

Saddam's latest arrogant act is going to create a real dilemma for the international community, because it has been the weakness of the international community that has been feeding his arrogance.

In August, Saddam suspended new spot inspections by the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), restricting inspectors to sites already visited. It was an obvious ploy to test the will of the UN and the validity of Annan's piece of paper. The UN proved to have no will, and the piece of paper no validity, so yesterday's escalation was the next step, in Saddam's logic, in asserting his return to international trouble-making.

Washington's initial statement of disapproval yesterday is just not good enough, and it is to be hoped that swift retribution will be at the top of the list in the planned meeting of the president's national security team. Saddam's halting of cooperation with UNSCOM merely formalized the fact that there are no inspections, but now he also has declared a halt to the crucial UN monitoring program that ensures Iraq does not renew its acquisition of raw materials for chemical biological or nuclear weapons.

ical biological or nuclear weapons.

Saddam's demand that the UN fire UNSCOM's chairman, Richard Butler of Australia, and "restructure UNSCOM," is sheer impertinence which must not be tolerated. Saddam says UNSCOM engages in international espionage, and he is absolutely right - it is the commission's job to spy on the dark corners of the unrepentant Saddam's evil regime on behalf of the world community, and to ferret out the dangerous weapons that he has been trying to hide since the end of the Gulf War.

Much of the blame for the failure of UN diplomacy with Iraq can be laid squarely on two factors - the faded will of the US and its allies to use force, and Annan's weakness in dealing with Saddam.

Only two weeks ago, Annan said he believed Iraq will never be fully disarmed and that it was unreasonable to expect the terms laid down eight years ago to be fully implemented. He said UN weapons teams would have to avoid confrontational inspections in order to regain Iraq's cooperation in determining the scope of its current arsenal.

All this might sound perfectly reasonable if Annan was dealing with even a half-civilized regime. He isn't; but unfortunately, Annan is too much of a gentleman to be able to handle a monster like Saddam, who only sees weakness in such statements and leaps immediately to take advantage of them - as he has just done.

All eyes will now turn to the US. Saddam's timing, with Congressional elections imminent, is no coincidence, and he will assume there is little stomach in Washington for a new military confrontation.

But with Saddam, it is a case of confrontation now, or confrontation later. With Saddam, it had better be now; later may be too late to stop him wreaking more international havoc.

The truth hurts

The report by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Committee is an impressive achievement for a country - a multiracial African country - where nerves are still raw from the decades of darkness from which it so recently emerged.

There are many in South Africa who believe the commission's work was an exercise in futility which has left the country more angry and divided than ever. They suggest that self-serving confessions and a hodge-podge of lies and half-truths have either let the perpetrators of the worst crimes of apartheid off scot-free, or they unjustly equated the sins of the oppressed struggling for freedom and those of the state-sanctioned oppressors.

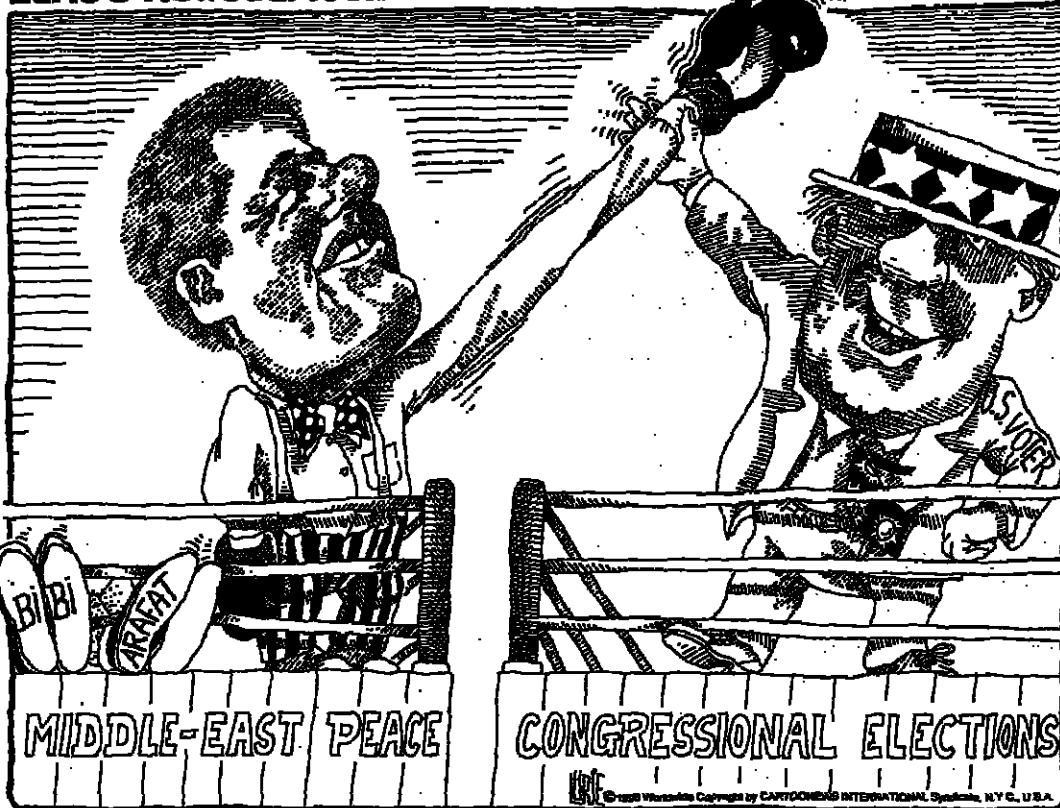
Nonetheless, the ruling African National Council's attempt to block the report at the last minute because of criticism of some of its

actions was a colossal blunder. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chairman who presented the report to President Nelson Mandela at a ceremony on Thursday, rightly said that he was not condemning one tyranny only to see it replaced by another.

The world had assumed from past discussions of the issue that the ANC had admitted responsibility and regret for the human rights abuses it had committed in its own training and detention camps during the war against apartheid. The sudden haste and futile rush to court to block the report left a nasty taste of a petty-minded and self-righteous little party that cannot say "sorry" and move on with dignity.

It spoiled a ceremony that was to have been a magnanimous gesture by all South Africans, except for the most extreme diehards, on behalf of the whole new nation.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



Nothing has changed

In the three years since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, not much has changed. Our society has grown neither more tolerant, nor less violent or more politically mature as a result of the infamous, cataclysmic murder and everything that took place in its aftermath. The basic fault-lines in Israeli politics haven't budged a bit, either.

We all thought differently. Political scientists told us that calamitous events of such high drama inevitably hit the political system, much like an earthquake, shaking everything up. Politicians and community leaders across the ideological spectrum spoke of transformation, of how they were going to do things differently, behave better, speak in a more refined manner, search for consensus, and so on. The public square was to undergo a metamorphosis.

Well, poppycock. In all these spheres, Israeli society is more or less where it left off three years ago: divided by hatreds, driven by revenge, manipulated by duplicitous politicians, threatened by extremists. Politics as usual.

Radical forces on the religious Right are once again revving up the anti-Oslo protest movement. And yes, last week we heard the "traitor" epithet irresponsibly hurled into the simmering street, along with gory posters depicting Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat shaking each other's bloody hands.

Some settler leaders, themselves opposed to the accord but advocates of responsible behavior, received death threats from extremists. We're moving into dangerous territory.

Yeshiva high schools almost mechanically took to the streets to protest the agreement as Netanyahu returned home, and I ask: What happened to the much-heralded education towards complexity and moderation of the past three years?

Does every kid with a *kippa* *svaga* automatically have to be to the far right of the right-wing? Are Religious Zionist youth getting to hear other perspectives in their schools, as well? Generally, they

DAVID WEINBERG

are not, and thus little has changed.

We were supposed to be so stunned by the assassination that another such act would be unthinkable. Yet, the security services think that a hit on government leaders is so real a possibility that they find it necessary to seal off every intersection on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, or

Three years after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, we remain divided by hatreds, driven by revenge and threatened by extremists

hire a helicopter, to move the prime minister cross-country. Violence has become a normative part of our political culture, that needs to be addressed every single day; it is not - as we all hoped - just an absurd, one-time nightmare. So you tell me, have we changed for the better?

SINCE the assassination, the political Left has been frantically busy blaming the Right and the religious for all ills of Israeli society and for all the dangers we face in the Middle East, moving ever farther off into Meretz territory. This has been accompanied by an intensified pace of secularization, an accelerated abandonment of Israeli classical icons, and a precipitous step up in the language of delegitimization against the adversaries of "enlightened" left-wingism.

Yes indeed, Labor is guilty on this account, which means that it failed to assimilate what it preaches to others about verbal violence. I still don't think that Shimon Peres, Yossi Sarid, Uzi Baram,

Yossi Beilin and others understand that peace cannot be made without the "other" half of the country. In this regard too, not much has changed.

In fact, the dynamics of the Oslo process have remained constant, despite the assassin's bullet. Prime Minister Netanyahu today is implementing what Rabin and Peres started, employing the same mechanisms of breast-beating to mask the fundamental flaws in the accord. We've just signed a fourth deal with Arafat (Oslo I, II, Hebron and the "new" Oslo II accord), in exchange for the very same Palestinian commitments made and not honored each time. Little has changed.

Standards of ethics, quality and responsibility in the Israeli media have to be among the lowest in the Western world, something that I fantasized would change. The providing of a ready platform for the antics and remarks of extremists, and the purveying of stereotypes about entire sectors of the public - remains standard fare, because it makes for good reading. Take for example, *Yediot Aharonot's* irresponsible publishing of the new *Protocols* - the book entitled *The Messiah's Donkey*. A best-seller - what could be better?

How about religious-secular relations? Substantial progress has been marked here, with all the dialogue and joint study groups under way in every community, right? So I thought too, until, sadly, I saw the gleeful reception given to Sefi Rachilevsky's rabid anti-religious book.

We are talking about an unschooled, defamatory piece of trash which calls for war by the secular against the religious public - warmongering that was welcomed with enthusiasm and excitement by some of the same secular leaders who have participated in the much-ballyhooed religious-secular dialogue groups! No, I'm afraid that since that woe-filled day three years ago not too much has changed for the better in the grand political scheme of things.

Depressing, isn't it?

Rabin's victory

DANIEL BLOCH

The Wye agreement is the ultimate defeat for Yigal Amir. This despicable person wanted not only to kill Yitzhak Rabin but, with his death, to put an end to the Oslo peace process.

For a time, it seemed that even though he was placed behind bars for life, he might still be the winner. Rabin's heirs, those who vowed to preserve his legacy, lost the elections. The winners were those who vehemently opposed his peace policies, demonstrated against him and did not censor the extremists who wanted to change his policies in a violent manner.

But the forces of history and peace seem to be stronger than the bullets of an assassin. For a while the process was stalled. But luckily, only for a short while and not only because of the work of the Israeli enemies of peace.

The anti-peace forces among the Palestinians, combined with the weakness of Yasser Arafat, and the preoccupation of the White House with other matters, made the process move at an even slower pace.

But the quest for peace was stronger than all its enemies. It was only fit, from the point of view of historical justice, that the latest agreement was signed close to the third anniversary of Rabin's assassination.

Three years after this tragic event, the pain of our great loss is even stronger. We miss his style of leadership, his frankness and integrity, even his sometimes blunt style of speech.

One of Rabin's important qualities was his ability to understand reality and change course when circumstances demanded it. He had strong convictions and perceptions, but he had the courage to listen, learn and change. He consulted with experts in all fields, he worked with pollsters and media advisers, but after consultations, he made up his own mind and pronounced his decision clearly and truthfully.

Rabin never promised some-

The forces of history and peace seem to be stronger than the bullets of an assassin

thing he could not fulfill. If he had to change his mind, he admitted the change and tried to explain it. He never changed the truth to suit his image-building needs.

As prime minister in his first term, 1974-1977, he started the peace process with Egypt. He reformed the tax system, curbed inflation and helped rebuild the spirit of the country, especially the army, after the shock of the Yom Kippur War.

In his second term, while making the fight against unemployment his first priority, he understood that the quest for peace was not only a prudent policy for security reasons but also a vital ingredient for promoting economic growth.

Thus, he tried every possible venue to resume the peace process. He thought it best to try and first of all achieve an agreement with Syria, because he did not believe the PLO was a credible peace partner. But when convinced that this opportunity really existed, he changed direction and signed the Declaration of Principles with Arafat.

His happiest day, however, was signing the formal peace agreement with Jordan's King Hussein, and he did hope, on that fateful night in Tel Aviv, that before the 1996 elections came around, he would be able to finalize the peace negotiations with Syria's Assad.

AFTER a period of trial and error - too many errors - Benjamin Netanyahu, together with Ariel Sharon, now understands that there is no way but to continue the Oslo peace process. The process is not without its obstacles, as Rabin would have been the first to admit, and now Netanyahu suffers from the same incitement that was focused on Rabin three years ago.

This time, the vast majority of the public and the political arena support both the peace process and the need to prevent the recurrence of violence and, God forbid, another assassination attempt.

We know that Yigal Amir acted on his own initiative, but he was groomed in an atmosphere that did not condemn any kind of political murder as a strict taboo, against any possible interpretation of God's will. Unfortunately, this atmosphere still exists in certain remote areas of the extreme religious Right.

The only way to fight it is by totally separating all ties between Halacha and the political process, and by doing everything possible to wake up and unite the vast and silent majority under the banner of peace, democracy and a secure future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CERTAINLY UNORTHODOX

Sir, - I strongly disagree with Prof. Alice Shalvi's letter "The Conservative answer" (October 23), where she writes: "I must take issue with your correspondent's reference to the Conservative movement as having 'chosen to go beyond halacha.'" I reject her claim that the movement is "halachic," including its decision to ordain women as rabbis. The term "halachic" is only meaningful and authoritative when those propounding it accept the divine origin of both the written and the oral Torah - Conservative rabbis overwhelmingly do not.

The Jewish Theological

INTIMATE RELATIONS

Eileen O'Shaughnessy (from 1936 to 1945) and to Sonia Brownell (from 1949 until his death in 1950). While Orwell and Celia Kirwan were close friends, they were never married.

GENE ZITVER

REDEMPTION OF BILL

Sir, - The events at the Wye Plantation were put into their proper perspective by President Bill Clinton in his closing speech. He thanked the Lord for allow-

ing him to participate as part of his "journey of repentance." Now it is clear that Moslems and Jews, Arabs and Israelis, even the Holy Land itself, are nothing more

ous contradictions in it.

The Conservative Movement's own greatest living talmudist, Prof. David Weiss Halivni of Columbia, resigned from JTS and the movement, condemning their gross violation of Halacha and halachic process in ordaining female rabbis; the allegedly liberal JTS responded to his critique by not even letting him speak at the memorial service for his beloved teacher, Saul Lieberman.

YAAKOV FOGELMAN
Director, Torah Outreach Program

Jerusalem.

Givatayim

Thomas O'Dwyer comments: Mr. Ziver is correct, the relationship was intimate but not formalized. My error, and I thank him for pointing it out.

YOSSI SHOMRON
Gush Katif.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On November 1, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported at length on the festive, formal opening of the new Haifa Harbor. In a radiotelephone message, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, British Secretary of State for Colonies, announced that his government stood by its obligation as regards the establishment of the National Home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

50 years ago: On November 1, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the IDF had routed Fawzi Kaukji's forces out of Galilee. The Arab losses were numbered into the hundreds. Ten Israeli soldiers fell in this action spearheaded by Druse and Circassian units.

25 years ago: On November 1, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* report-

ed that the US, under Egyptian and Soviet pressure, held that the surrounded Egyptian Third Army must not be forced to surrender. The Soviet Union had already replaced a considerable number of armys Syria lost in fighting. Premier Golda Meir flew to Washington to meet the US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

Alexander Zvielli

Turning to Jeremiah

URI DROMI

On the terrace of the Cinematheque, with my wife and couple of friends.

Suddenly, around 10 p.m., I felt a fierce pain in my chest. If this is a heart attack, I mused, then thank God I have my friend Andre with me: He is one of the leading cardi-

If Netanyahu becomes the executor of Rabin's will perhaps there is still hope

ologists in Jerusalem.

But then it hit me like a bolt. I knew right away that something terrible had happened to Yitzhak Rabin. Now don't ask me how, I just knew.

The thing is, when I graduated from the flying school of the Israeli Air Force many years ago, then-chief-of-general-staff Rabin pinned the wings to my chest. Clumsy as he was in these matters, he stabbed me few times before he was done. He then gave me one of his shy smiles and mumbled an apology. I whispered that I couldn't care less.

So on that fateful night, when I felt that pain in my chest, I just knew. Of course my beeper and cellular phone immediately went off like crazy, turning nightmare into reality. I have never gone back to the Cinematheque since.

BUT today, three years after the fall of our hero of peace, his bitter

rival Benjamin Netanyahu is actually following in his footsteps. Rhetoric aside, the path on which Rabin embarked seems to be the only viable road to peace. Netanyahu, who once wrote and spoke vehemently against the Oslo Agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, has now become a reluctant supporter of the very peace process he was opposing.

Unfortunately, the same people who yelled fighting words against Rabin at the rallies headed by Netanyahu, are now directing their incitement against their former champion. Israeli society should learn from the lessons of the tragic past, and handle them with the iron hand they deserve. Freedom of speech is one thing; calling one's prime minister a traitor is another. Three years ago we witnessed what these words might lead to.

And what about Netanyahu himself? Only time will tell whether or not he has undergone a real change of heart. But if, by an ironic twist of history, he becomes the executor of Rabin's will, then perhaps there is still hope, and Jewish father and Arab villager may, after all, live together peacefully in this land.

We may then turn again to Jeremiah: "Refrain thy voice from weeping," he said, "and thine eyes from tears, for thy work shall be rewarded."

And maybe I, too, should go back to the Cinematheque. This week, by the way, they are showing Mike Leigh's film *High Hopes*.

The writer was the director of the Government Press Office, 1992-1996.

A lesson in remembrance

Aryeh Dean Cohen visits four high schools to see how they are marking the third anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination



Students at Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School light memorial candles in the shape of a peace symbol one year after the Rabin assassination. Today schools will mark the third anniversary with memorial ceremonies and lessons in tolerance. (Brian Hendler)

As teachers and students around the country watch the flag lowered to half-mast today in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, educators hope the message of tolerance will be loud and clear.

"I want it inscribed in their memories: this act should never be repeated. Enough violence; say yes to peace," said Etty Sheps, assistant principal of the ORT High School in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood.

Throughout the country memorial ceremonies for Rabin will remember his achievements, review his death, and draw on the lessons that can be used for a better future. The law commits schools to pay tribute to Rabin's memory, deal with the importance of democracy and discuss the danger violence poses to society and the state. Each school, however, determines its individual program.

The most important place on the day we remember Yitzhak Rabin is the schools," Shapira explained, noting that not all children would be exposed to such discussions at home.

"I'm not sure that in every home there is the same identical serious and deep consideration for the Rabin assassination," Shapira and his staff worked for months providing schools with materials. They ranged from a speech by Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein of the Har Etzion Yeshiva a week after the assassination on the significance of being responsible for someone's education to an article on what an Arab teacher can learn from the assassination by Arab poet and educator Salim Jubran. There are also suggestions about which Jewish texts can be used and a videotape on Rabin's life.

"Each school knows how to prepare its own educational program... at every school a certain direction has started to form in the past few years on this day," Shapira said.

In the week before today's ceremony, pupils at four Jerusalem high schools were using different doors to the same corridor - all were coming to grips with the Rabin assassination at a time when incitement was again rearing its head.

At Sheps's ORT Ramot High School preparations for the ceremony - organized by the ninth grade - have been going on for weeks. While Sheps doesn't believe ceremonies can work miracles, she's convinced they have far-reaching educational value.

"I don't dare say that this ceremony can change the atmosphere in the country. We do it because it's something that the pupil remembers. Every school has a tradition, a ritual which is repeated. One of them is the ceremony. And a pupil might not remember a math lesson, but they do

remember the experiences they have, and this is an emotional experience. They wear a white shirt - they do something before the ceremony. These things stay with the children more than any regular lesson."

ORT's program includes a series of activities on freedom of expression, democracy and mutual respect. "We do word association, like we write down 'Freedom of Expression' on the board, and ask the pupils what associations come to mind... We talk about insulting someone - when they insulted or hurt someone, and when were they hurt or offended. Regarding freedom of expression, we ask them if incitement can be caused by saying anything [one pleases]," Sheps explained.

Pupils are asked how the assassination has changed them or the country. "There are all kinds of responses," she says. "Some say nothing has changed. Others say the radical acts of one man do not necessarily reflect on the rest of the nation. There are those who are ashamed of what was done."

The preliminary exercises prepared the youngsters for the ceremony itself which goes "from

tragic to tribute to vision," says Sheps, adding that it is open to the public.

It begins with a recording of Eitan Haber announcing Rabin's death and includes Rabin's Nobel Prize speeches, the Shamgar

Commission's words to Yigal Amir, part of Rabin's granddaughter Noa Ben-Artzi's eulogy and numerous songs to be sung by a school choir. Youngsters will stand vigil by candles alongside large pictures of Rabin, and pupils will write down their thoughts about the day - along with others from around the country - to be placed at a tent for study and fasting alongside Rabin's grave. Sheps dismissed notions that today's MTV generation can't be reached by such simple ceremonies and activities. "Even if they are the MTV generation, that doesn't mean they don't have values, they don't feel pain over what happened to Yitzhak Rabin. The opposite is the case," she says.

Sheps says that while this week's attacks on the prime minister make her wonder whether the Israeli people have changed, she's still determined to do her share. "I want us to learn a lesson because this act [of assassination] - it's enough... we don't want it to happen again."

WHILE there will be no mixed choirs at the Horev Yeshiva High School's ceremony, the soul-searching there has been no less intense, perhaps even more so. Some of Horev's pupils still remember an incident which occurred a year before Rabin's assassination, one the prime minister forgave them for.

Rabbi Yaakov Mendelson, head of the school's *beit midrash* program, recalled how a group of

pupils participated in a virulently anti-Rabin demonstration without permission from school principal Rabbi Mordechai Elon.

"Rabbi Elon called them in for a discussion about how one protests and what are the red lines at such a demonstration... As a result, right before Yom Kippur, some 40 of these pupils wrote a letter to the prime minister and said that they had been through a frustrating year politically, and that they wanted to ask forgiveness for some things, including from him."

"He sent a response, saying: 'This year, when I say "And all the Jewish people will be forgiven because they have all done

wrong," it will have special significance to me. We still have this letter, and this appeal to Rabin was done at the pupils' initiative."

Asked if the school's zeal to hold a ceremony was any less given the perceived political leanings of its pupils, Mendelson happily noted that the opposite was true. "These things come from below, and not just from above," he said, "and we feel that here at the yeshiva. The pupils came to us already a week ago to remind us that we have to do something, that they want something serious."

This week, Elon held discussions in various classes on violence and on how to demonstrate

or speak in public. A poster of Rabin will be displayed at the school's entrance today and Elon will speak at a school gathering. Psalms will be read, a film on Rabin will be screened, and all the day's classes will be dedicated to Rabin's memory.

"As regards the day itself and the need to think, clarify, remember and pray - all these things are being done here without any second thoughts - there is no question about this," he said.

Last year, Horev students traveled to sites around Jerusalem connected to Rabin. "This is a day we see not only as a duty, but as a privilege... to remember him, and to also think ahead,"

Mendelson explained.

The message he wants the Horev pupils to take home is strikingly similar to Sheps's, only with different emphasis. "At the simplest level, it's the pain and the personal feeling the things about Yitzhak Rabin that the student can identify with... [but] I also want him to very much think about - and this is a vital educational element - how one lives in a complex society in which there are radical opinions on each side. How can the Jewish people survive as one people despite the contrasts in opinions and thoughts."

During a week in which the President Weizman found it necessary to again warn against incitement, Mendelson finds solace in his school's soul-searching. "Unfortunately, we have experienced a very serious fall," he says. "But I believe that from it we learn new things, things that the public may have considered, but not enough."

"I believe that the fact that all educational institutions will be dealing with these relevant issues - is how we should proceed. Because they feel that there must be some kind of compact reached, a clear path of principles every-

one is dedicated to, and I'm sure that at my school, there is no doubt that this is the general desire of everyone."

THE sense of a joint struggle with the difficult issues will be most apparent today at the Boyer and Himelfarb high schools in Jerusalem's Bayit Vagan neighborhood, where the two schools - one religious, one secular - will hold a joint memorial ceremony for the third straight year.

For years the two institutions, which sit across the street from each other, lived at arm's length - pupils occasionally mingled but had little formal interaction. Then, after the Rabin assassination, it was decided that the commemoration of his death should bring the two schools together, at least once a year if not more.

"What we're striving for is a sense of unity without obliterating the differences," the principal of the religious Himelfarb school, Yirmi Stavisky, explained about today's ceremony, a mix of traditional Jewish and modern Zionist presentations.

"We just thought that they had a great deal to say, and it would be good if they did," said Boyer principal Hannah Surkis of the decision to put the 12th-graders in charge. "They are the graduates this year, and becoming citizens. We want to give them the stage, to encounter other opinions - it's an additional value, an important goal in its own right."

As in years past, the pupils have both chosen and written the texts,

Surkis said, and discussion groups will follow. There have been disagreements, but they've been settled amicably.

When Aviv Gefen's song "Shir Hatikva," urging Israelis to "conquer peace, not the territories," was suggested for the ceremony, eyes went to an Efrat youngster who insisted he didn't understand why this bothered anyone, recalled Dorit Lenberger, the 12th-grade Himelfarb teacher coordinating the activities. "It's talking about the future, and there's no problem," he said. Still, in respect of the possibility that others may take offense, the song was moved from the closing number to another spot in the ceremony.

Stavisky of Himelfarb thinks that's exactly what the Rabin memorial is meant to do. "They're working on models of reconciliation - how to solve a problem. Two points are essential: There are differences [between them], and these differences can be discussed and overcome."

"It's essential for people to have their own identity and to live with or even love people with other identities," Himelfarb teacher Lenberger notes that "because we

have created something together, an emotional feeling is created of togetherness, and that more than anything they might say leaves them with the impression that it's possible for things to be done differently."

That is increasingly what's happening outside, especially at the kiosk, where kids from both schools now hang out together.

The cooperative effort also includes regular meetings between teachers and administrative staff. Last year's memorial event didn't end there, either - a response team set up by the pupils issued calls against violence when questionable comments were made by MKs or other public figures, and this is expected to continue this year.

Pictures of Rabin as commander in chief were being added to a bulletin board down the hall from his office, as Stavisky summarized how Rabin's memory has energized the efforts to build mutual respect, exactly along the lines laid down by the new law.

"Unfortunately, as Israelis we respond very deeply to tragedy," he declared, "and sometimes, when we are able to get rid of certain layers of coarseness, prejudice and anger, we find that deep down these kids really have the ability to create a more beautiful society. You need that tragedy as a catalyst for reaching down for something deeper. That's what the day contributes to them as individuals, and to us as a society."

'I want the student to think about how one lives in a complex society in which there are radical opinions on each side'

- Rabbi Yaakov Mendelson, educator

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Chairman: Lorenzo Cremonesi

(Middle East Correspondent of Confere Dela Sera, Italy)

8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3, 1998

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Alfred Hitchcock might have known

TELL ME WHY

When you see a flock of pigeons on a telephone wire, they're almost always facing in the same direction, even if the sun's not out. Can you explain why? Avigdor, Ramat Gan.

Dr. Arnon Lotem, a zoologist at Tel Aviv University, comments:

This is a well-observed phenomenon. Birds perch facing the wind so that their feathers are not mussed. This isn't a matter of vanity - when feathers are not sleeked down, birds lose warmth.

Also, two mated pigeons may stand side-by-side facing the same direction to facilitate communication, like two people sitting next to each other. Beyond that, various species of birds may face the same direction because they imitate others.

Why is it that the most common birds - at least those in cities - seem to be dull-looking birds like sparrows? Ayelet, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Lotem tackles this one as well:

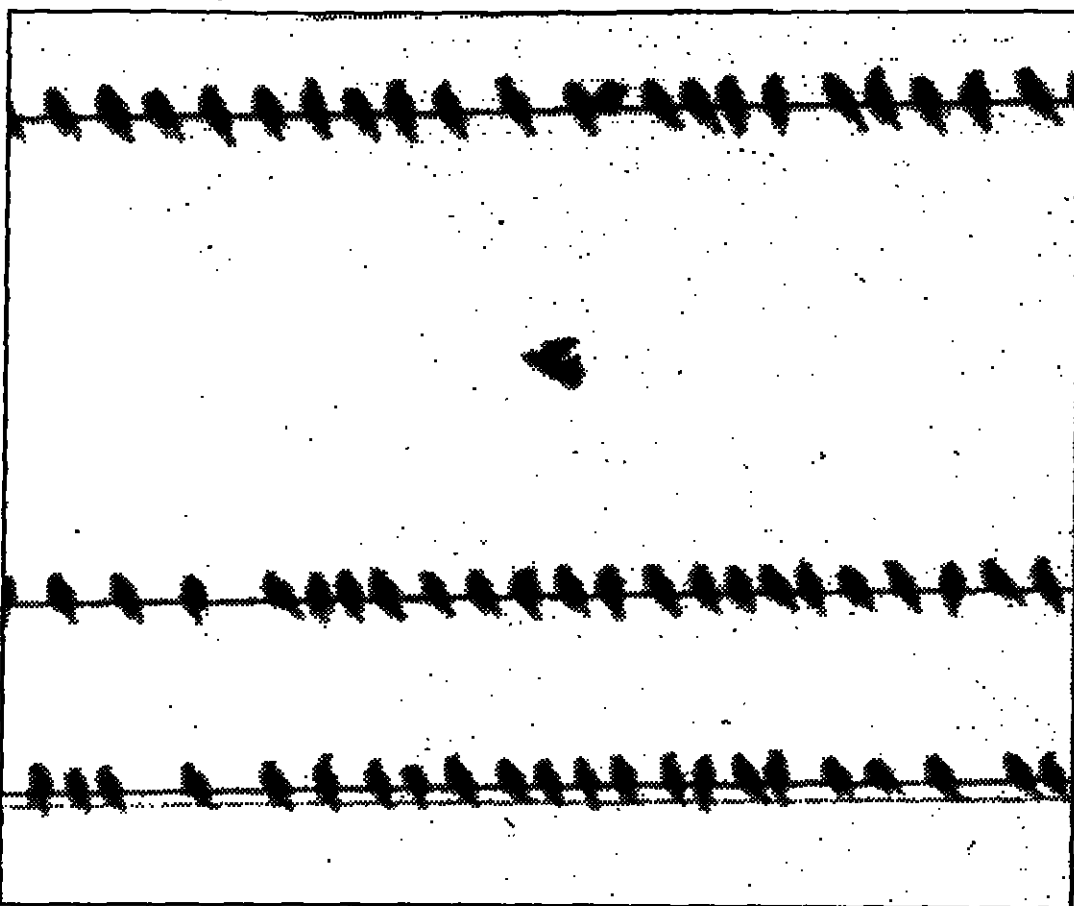
There are some very colorful species of birds in the city, but they are usually hidden in green areas and need to be viewed with binoculars. However, it is true that sparrows and pigeons, whose plumage is very dull, have multiplied in urban areas because they live well on food left by humans.

How colorful a bird species is depends on many variables, the most important of which are camouflage and attracting a mate. Colorful feathers can protect them from being attacked by predators if they live in a colorful environment. And in some species, females are attracted to the most colorful males. But in general, not much research has been done on this matter.

How does stainless steel manage to look shiny all the time, immune to stains and rust? Jeannette, Holon.

Tom Koevsky of the Hebrew University's Casali Institute for Applied Chemistry, responds:

Stainless steel is an alloy made from a number of metals. An



Flocking together: Birds perch facing the wind, so their feathers stay unruffled and they retain warmth. (AP)

alloy is a mixture of metals in which each component retains its characteristics (unlike a compound, like water or salt, in which the original elements undergo a chemical reaction).

There are perhaps dozens of types of stainless steel. Steel itself is made of iron, with carbon added to make it stronger.

Stainless steel used in the kitchen is known as type 304 or 18/8 - 18% of it is chromium and 8% nickel. This combination is highly resistant to corrosion, oxidation and staining - it is quite inert and doesn't mix easily with oxygen or other chemicals. Stainless steel used in the chemical industry is comprised of 18% chromium, 12% nickel and 2% molybdenum, which is more expensive but makes it even more resistant.

Ultraviolet light is very powerful and causes damage to human skin. But I was wonder-

ing whether it harms plants as well, and if they have any natural defenses against it. Haim, Kfar Sava.

Prof. Avraham Steinberg, Amnon Schwartz, and Eli Zamsky of the Hebrew University's Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot all considered this question and gave their views:

Ultraviolet light kills microorganisms, and UV radiation is, in fact, used to kill pathogens in the lab and in food. UV can't cause plants to dehydrate, but it can cause damage to genes by mutating DNA or RNA, which is why people with large cumulative exposure to UV can contract skin cancer.

UV has shorter wavelengths than visible light and relatively high energy, which makes it more harmful. Plants absorb red and blue light from the spectrum, but UV is shorter and they don't absorb it. However, since UV is high energy, it can radiate plant

cells. Plants can't move away or cover themselves with sunscreen, so nature gives them various chemicals in the epidermis of their leaves, including carotenoids, which help filter out UV.

The ozone layer of the atmosphere also filters out UV - but now that there are holes in the ozone layer, it will be interesting to see whether plants, having less protection, will be affected and adapt, even though evolutionary processes take time.

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'Coming soon, to a computer near you'

TORONTO - Move over, Titanic. There's a new show in town and its producers see you, the viewers, playing a leading role. Welcome to the new world of "Netertainment," where movies and television meet the interactive world of the Internet.

Canadian movie and Web site makers have unleashed a groundbreaking film on the Net that invites viewers to choose the order in which they watch its scenes. The creators claim their baby, made exclusively for the Web and called *Monster Home*, is the first of its kind.

The people who produce Internet content believe these projects are the next wave in the entertainment business and will change the way films and shows are made forever.

Potential viewers are the growing numbers of people turning to the Internet to surf for information, chat with others, see photographic pictures and, increasingly, watch some type of video clip.

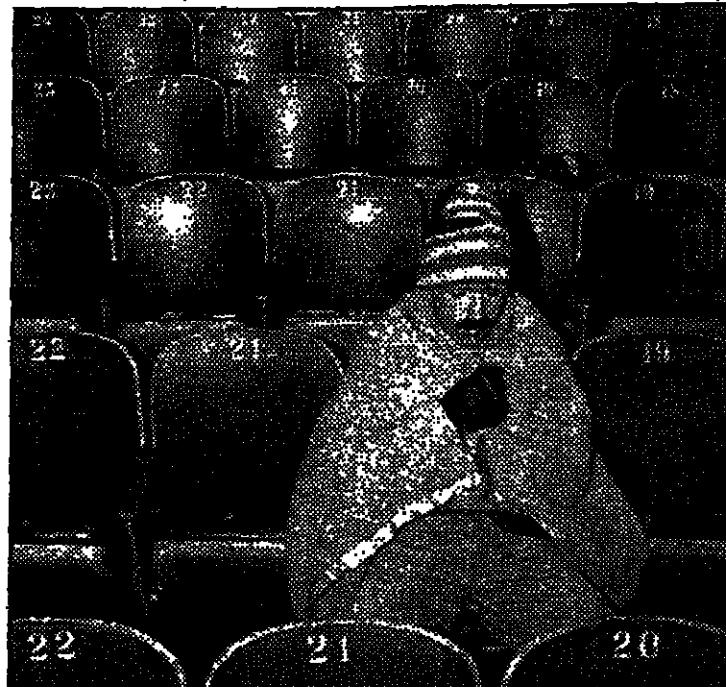
US entrepreneur Josh Harris, who founded a creative Web content business called Pseudo Programmes Inc., thinks eventually everyone will be watching entertainment on the Net.

"The eight hours a day that people have the TV on is dropping. People are crossing over to the Net because it's a more compelling experience," Harris said.

Canadian Geoffrey Shea, president of Image Business, hopes Harris is right. The six-member firm in Dundas, Ontario, unveiled the hour-long *Monster Home* on June 18. The Web site is www.monsterhome.com.

"Our goal for this particular work is to have it entertain, or, better, or otherwise engage as many people as are interested in using the Internet for entertainment," Shea said. "Our goal beyond that is to develop more sophisticated, more ambitious, more advanced Net-specific entertainment content. And as the Net evolves, the nature of that content will evolve as well - more like a game, a puzzle or information."

Harris takes it a step further. "We're the next generation of television, we make TV. It's just on the computer instead of cable." *Monster Home* follows the story of a family invited to a high-tech mansion to earn the love - and money - of a shadowy millionaire grandfather. The film, cut up into snippets that a Net viewer must click, follows the family deeper into a



Is this the future of the old-style cinema - near-deserted? (Hosch Gutmann)

murky world of dubious doings.

AS the observer, the viewer hacks into someone else's electronic mail, reads a fictitious Web site and views cartoons and scenes from the perspective of the indoor video cameras.

One of Canada's national newspapers, *The Globe and Mail*, said *Monster Home* was like a grade-B suspense flick crossed with *The X-Files*.

Shot in nine days with local actors for C\$120,000, it is not likely to eclipse the epic *Titanic*, which starred heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio, won 11 Oscars and cost more than US\$200 million.

But, in a small way, the film is "very ambitious," said Paul Hoffer, a York University professor who is on the selection committee of telephone company Bell Canada, which paid half the costs. Broken down into scenes and including animation and video, "it is an example of a project that is pushing the boundaries a little bit," Hoffer said.

ABOUT 350 people view *Monster Home* daily. That's respectable, considering viewers need lots of high-tech gadgetry to watch, including a high-speed modem, sound cards for audio and other bits of hardware and software.

The actual picture, the size of a business card on the computer

screen, features jerky motion and poor sound quality reminiscent of the early talkies. And the problem of "net congestion" - when too many people are surfing the Web at the same time - sometimes pops up to interrupt the flow.

Despite technological drawbacks, however, Internet creations like *Monster Home* could help revolutionize the movie industry, somewhat like the video machine did.

Once VCRs became common, movies could be created with the knowledge that they did not have to cater solely to a mainstream audience to make money.

"I think that lower-budget movies with more specific appeal are going to become more possible because you're not going to have to have a million-people-have-to-see-this-to-break-even kind of economics," Shea said.

"Imagine when it gets even cheaper and even more convenient, when you don't even have to bother going all the way down to the corner video store, but can just click on something on your computer and get that movie directly across the Internet."

Shea said massive spectacles such as *Titanic* will always exist, but quirky Netertainment vehicles, where you can watch characters real-time or have a virtual conference with other viewers, could be coming soon to a computer near you. (Reuters)

Seeds of hope beneath charred remains



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

After Israelis watched thousands of dunams of the Carmel Forest go up in smoke last month, it's comforting to hear about the latest research on rehabilitating forests devastated by fire.

The Ecological Society of America claims smoke breathes new life into such forests by triggering seed germination.

Scientists at California State University, which is located in a region plagued by forest fires, have looked at what happens after the last ember dies out, leaving a charred, skeleton forest. The next generation of forest lying beneath the scorched soil will have a renaissance, as once-dormant seeds are awakened, they say.

Writing in the October issue of *Ecology*, Jon Keeley and C. J. Fotheringham reported on their

investigation of the mechanisms behind fire-triggered seed germination, and focus specifically on the role of smoke.

Scientists have previously reported that heat shock and charred wood induce germination in dormant seeds. In their study of California chaparral, the two scientists show that smoke also triggers germination in deeply dormant seeds.

Keeley and Fotheringham compared seed characteristics of species stimulated by smoke to those stimulated by heat shock, and the different mechanisms behind germination.

Seeds that germinate after exposure to smoke are distinctly different from those that do not. Outer seed coats are highly textured, have a poorly developed outer cuticle, are missing dense tissue in the coat of the seed and have a membrane that allows water - but not larger particles - to pass through.

Smoke triggers germination directly by penetrating the seed, as well as indirectly, by vapor or liquid transfer from soil to seeds.

The scientists found, within the smoke-stimulated plants, that a variety of factors trigger germination, including charred wood,

nitrogen dioxide, duration of exposure to smoke, soil content and moisture level, and the influence of day and night.

In some species, exposure to smoke alone was enough to cause a seed to germinate. In others, a combination of factors was necessary for germination to take place.

Keeley and Fotheringham conclude that the different responses triggered among plants may suggest fire behavior has an important ecological impact on post-fire communities by influencing which plants will prosper and reclaim the land.

SAY IT IN HEBREW

If you've always wondered how to translate plethysmograph (an electronic device to monitor the amount of blood in the body), head degasser (a demagnetizer on the head of an electronic speaker) and radiopaque (insulation against x-rays) into Hebrew, you now have a new source of information.

Sifri has just published *The Up-to-Date Technical Dictionary*, with 20,000 technical terms in the fields of computers, electricity, electronics, communications and Internet. Most of the hard-cover volume translates technical terms

from English to Hebrew, but about a fifth of the pages include conversions from Hebrew to English.

The NIS 84 dictionary, sold at Steimatzky and other book stores, will be very useful to people who deal with abstruse technical words in both languages. Still, one wonders how many engineers, programmers and the like will actually bother to use or learn the Hebrew terms.

Edited by Joram Bick, it replaces the original *Technical Dictionary* produced by Sifri in 1991 - 18 years ago, before the Internet and major new technological developments. Technical fields since then have changed beyond recognition.

TRUMPET POWER

Observant Jewish children who read the description in the Book of Joshua of how the ancient Israelites' trumpets and voices felled the walls of Jericho have no doubt that it occurred. Now scientists at Wyle Laboratories in El Segundo, California, have performed simulations to see if it could really have happened.

The latest issue of *Popular Science* reports that the biblical description "may well be true." The company, which put the



There's no smoke without fire, as Ein Hod learned last month - but new research suggests smoke can actually breathe new life into forests. (Ron Schitzer)

Mars Rover through its paces before its launching by NASA, built a brick wall inside an acoustic test chamber. They then bombarded it with sound waves, using a single horn through which

the waves were electronically channeled.

The energy that passed through the horn was equal to that produced by about 10,000 speakers and, the wall came tumbling

down.

The tests, according to the science magazine, were conducted as part of a TV series about biblical mysteries being produced for The Learning Channel.

That thing called Usenet - it's the world's largest ongoing chat

By RON PEREGARO

Once upon a time, before the World Wide Web brought white-collar productivity to a standstill, there was a thing called Usenet. You may think it's gone - but it wanders the Earth still.

What is this thing? Usenet is probably the world's largest ongoing conversation. It is a worldwide network of electronic bulletin boards - forums where people can post text messages, called articles, posts or postings, for others to read and reply to.

It includes more than 30,000 such "newsgroups," covering every imaginable area of interest, along with many that couldn't be imagined (e.g., alt.cows.moo.moo.moo).

How does it work? Unlike the Internet itself, Usenet (created in 1979) doesn't function in anything close to real time. Instead, it works on a "store-and-forward" basis: If somebody in Russia contributes a posting to the rec.travel.air newsgroup about Aeroflot's food, it may take a day or two to show up at my Internet provider in Virginia, as that posting is copied from

one "news server" to another. In fact, it might not make it there at all.

Usenet is not a permanent medium either. All these posted messages raining down on your provider's news server can add up to several gigabytes of data a day. So on most news servers, postings are deleted after a week or so.

How long articles are kept, like most aspects of Usenet, is up to the "news administrator" at your Internet provider, who chooses what groups to carry and what sites to accept new postings from.

Why should I bother with Usenet?

The Web is fun enough, but you can't easily contribute to it on a daily basis. For all the blather about the Web's interactivity, it's often as inactive as TV - instead of switching channels on your remote, you click to different sites in your bookmarks list.

Usenet, by contrast, lets you talk back. You can share opinions and information and meet some surprisingly intelligent, reasoned people. Even if you choose not to post anything (known as "lurking"), it can still be entertaining to read discus-

sions. On the other hand, if you'd rather not witness how bigoted, ill-tempered and uninformed your fellow alleged humans can be, avoid Usenet. Moreover, many newsgroups are infected with an epidemic of unsolicited ads - off-topic, usually insultingly stupid pitches for get-rich-quick schemes or pornographic sites.

Not all providers try very hard to filter out this "spam," which can make sifting through the junk a minor ordeal. Finally, Usenet can waste a lot of your time. Try to keep up with more than four or five high-traffic groups, and you'll find yourself wasting three hours a day.

If none of this puts you off, how and where do you start?

Assuming your Internet software is relatively new and configured correctly (your provider's startup kit should have done that for you), just fire up your Web browser.

In most versions of Netscape Navigator, select "News" from the "Window" menu; in Internet Explorer, click and hold on the

"Mail" icon, then select "Read News" to start up IE's companion program, Internet Mail & News or Outlook Express, depending on what version you're using.

Either one of those steps fires up a "newsreader."

The first time you use it, you'll have to wait a few minutes while it fetches a list of every newsgroup on your provider's news server. When that's done, double-click a group's name to read it.

You'll see a listing of message headers, just like in e-mail; where more than one person has contributed a posting under the same subject, those postings should be listed together in a "thread."

To read a message, double-click on it; if you want to respond - either by posting an article to the group or by e-mailing the author directly - click on "reply," just like e-mail.

So far, so good. But you've got a list of probably 20,000-plus newsgroups on your screen! You can either scroll through that list and look for interesting newsgroup titles, or - better idea - you can use your newsreader's "search" function.

For instance, Internet Mail & News/Outlook Express feature a little "Display newsgroups containing:" form; type in a word, such as "music," "dining" or "antiques," to show groups with that in their name.

Another option, especially if you're looking for discussions on more obscure topics, is DejaNews (<http://www.dejanews.com>), a giant Web site that lets you search through archived Usenet postings.

Newsgroups come in a loose hierarchical order.

Most fall into eight major clusters, named for the prefixes in their names: alt - short for "alternative"; comp - computing-related topics; misc - "miscellaneous" (a catchall hierarchy for things that don't fit elsewhere); news - discussions of Usenet and the Internet itself; rec - recreational topics such as sports, music, movies, TV and car talk; soc - social issues, such as dating and marriage; sci - discussions of scientific topics; and talk.

If you decide a newsgroup is interesting

enough to read regularly, "subscribing" to it will cause your newsreader to look for new postings there each time you start it up.

Do not post the instant you subscribe. Instead, take your time to get a feel for how the group works, which regulars have a clue and which questions get asked and answered every week.

One aspect of your newsreader you'll find exceedingly useful is its charmingly named "killfile" - a set of filters you can set to skip articles matching certain criteria, such as subject lines or authors. Start by trashing anything with "\$\$\$" or "!!!" in the subject header, for example, and many of the ads go away.

If your newsreader doesn't offer this capability - older versions of Netscape Navigator don't, for instance - you should download one that does - preferably one that's free.

In that category, for Windows users, Microsoft's Outlook Express (<http://www.microsoft.com/ie40oe/>) offers basic filtering in a relatively simple package. (The Washington Post)

סדרה מן הארץ

Changing a child's life with Play-Doh

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich meets a world expert in pediatric occupational therapy and learns that the field involves much more than rehabilitation after stroke or injury

The term "occupational therapy" conjures up scenes of the elderly being helped to use a knife and fork or climb stairs after suffering a stroke, or younger people undergoing rehabilitated after injury in a road accident.

But occupational therapists — known as OTs — deal with a range of disabilities and a variety of ages, and can even prevent deformities in premature infants confined for months to incubators in neonatal intensive-care units.

The field of early pediatric OT is a growing one, dealing with babies and children up to the age of five.

Using simple tools such as plastic pegs, Play-Doh, small tweezers, magnetic wands, pipe cleaners and turkey basters, children can be screened — and treated — for delays in fine-motor development.

One of the world's leading experts in pediatric OT, Dr. Jane Case-Smith of Ohio State University, was here last month at the invitation of the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Occupational Therapy.

Case-Smith, who has written numerous books on the subject and teaches and continues to work with children, led several workshops for Israeli OTs. She held her audiences spellbound as she

explained how to use OT to identify and treat children with developmental and communications problems, retardation, cerebral palsy, hyperactivity and autism.

Autistic children, Case-Smith explained, are usually hypersensitive to certain audio tones, visual stimulation or touch, which cause them to disconnect from their environment, because they lack neurological balance. She described OT techniques that can ameliorate these reactions.

Other OT work includes diagnosing motor difficulties in newborns, interdisciplinary teams identifying problems as they watch children playing games through a one-way mirror, and in-school assessment of youngsters with retardation and cerebral palsy. This allows many of them to be integrated into regular rather than special-education schools.

Some techniques, like diagnostics while observing children at play, are not yet used here; others, including the mainstreaming of handicapped children, are rare.

CASE-SMITH, who has two sons aged seven and 10, completed her doctorate at the University of Georgia and has been at Ohio State for a decade. "I immediately

wanted to practice with young children," she said in an interview.

She particularly enjoys working in neonatal units with tiny newborns and their families. "The babies don't have very much muscle tone," she says, "so we 'nest' them to keep them in the right position."

"The old thinking was that a neonatal intensive-care unit is a boring environment for babies that requires stimulation; but the new theory is that they're over-stimulated — from the noise of pumps, respirators, telephones and monitors."

"What is clear is that 'kangaroo care' (having mothers walk around with their babies in pouches close to their skin to provide warmth and a heartbeat noise) is very desirable."

US law (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) requires OTs to be employed by education departments and to work in preschool frameworks, diagnosing and treating children with developmental and other problems.

"The law sets down 45 days as the maximum for starting care, but because of the shortage of money and staff, patients often have to wait extra months," noted Case-

Smith, who is one of about 90,000 OTs in the US.

"Yes, 95% of them are women, as it is one of the caring professions. But at Ohio State we have some very capable male OTs."

On her first visit to Israel, the therapist said she was very impressed by the *tipat halav* (family health) center system here, calling it "very pro-active, very child-oriented."

But she added that in the field of mainstreaming and in-school care, Israel is a decade or more behind the US.

MANY of the articles Case-Smith has published in professional journals deal with in-hand manipulation in children, with and without fine-motor delays. The term refers to the adjustment of objects inside the hand after they are grasped.

"These are important underlying skills for a variety of functional activities, including handwriting and manipulation of keys, coins and other small objects. Children with poor in-hand manipulation often compensate by using two hands, or by manipulating an object against an external surface."

The therapist noted that children with learning disabilities can be identified by their difficulty in motor coordination, which can be picked up by an OT using special manipulation tests.

The child is given pegs about half-a-centimeter long and a 10-hole pegboard. Using one hand, keeping the other in the lap, the child is instructed to grab each peg



Breaking the isolation: Occupational therapy can identify and treat a range of disabilities including retardation, cerebral palsy, hyperactivity and autism.

in its hole, turn it over and replace it in the hole.

"We describe the peg as 'a man

who wants to stand on his head,'" Case-Smith smiled.

The child is then asked to pick

up one peg and hide it in his or her hand, and then pick up the next one and do the same, or rotate each peg, as if the "man" is doing somersaults.

Most in-hand manipulation skills develop between the ages of three and four. OTs use stopwatches and their eyes to judge performance.

"The information is useful in determining why a child may have difficulty performing specific daily living skills, such as dressing... Children with fine-motor delays tend to require more time and be less efficient in completing tasks that require eye-hand coordination and in-hand manipulation — buttoning, manipulating coins and keys, and handling small pieces of a board game."

"But once problems are identified, skills can be improved with exercises. Improvement is usually most rapid in pencil grasp, in-hand manipulation and eye-hand coordination," the therapist noted.

Now that computers have entered nursery schools and kindergartens, Case-Smith does not fear that time spent using a keyboard will work to the detriment of using pencil and pen. Typing on a keyboard involves important skills as well, she adds, though voice recognition systems that replace keyboard work could have a detrimental effect on these early skills.

Children with cerebral palsy generally show the most progress after therapy, while those with autism are the most problematic. But even they benefit from OT, Case-Smith concluded.

Is cerebral palsy on its way out?

By MAGGIE FOX

Cerebral palsy may not be caused by physical trauma during birth, after all. The real culprit may be natural body chemicals that have gone awry, according to US researchers.

Their surprising finding could lead to a way to prevent the condition, which affects one out of 1,000 babies.

The study of newborns showed that babies who later developed cerebral palsy were born with higher concentrations of immunosignalling chemicals known as cytokines. Many also had high levels of blood coagulation factors.

"These factors appear to play a role in several different processes that can lead to CP," said Dr. Karin Nelson, a child neurologist at the US National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland.

Cerebral palsy is characterized by poor muscle control ranging from clumsiness to severe paralysis. Some patients have spastic tremors and some have learning disorders. About 10 to 15 percent of cases are caused by a loss of oxygen during birth.

Cerebral palsy is also more common in premature babies, and can be caused by brain injury related to meningitis or severe dehydration. But the cause of the majority of cases is unknown.

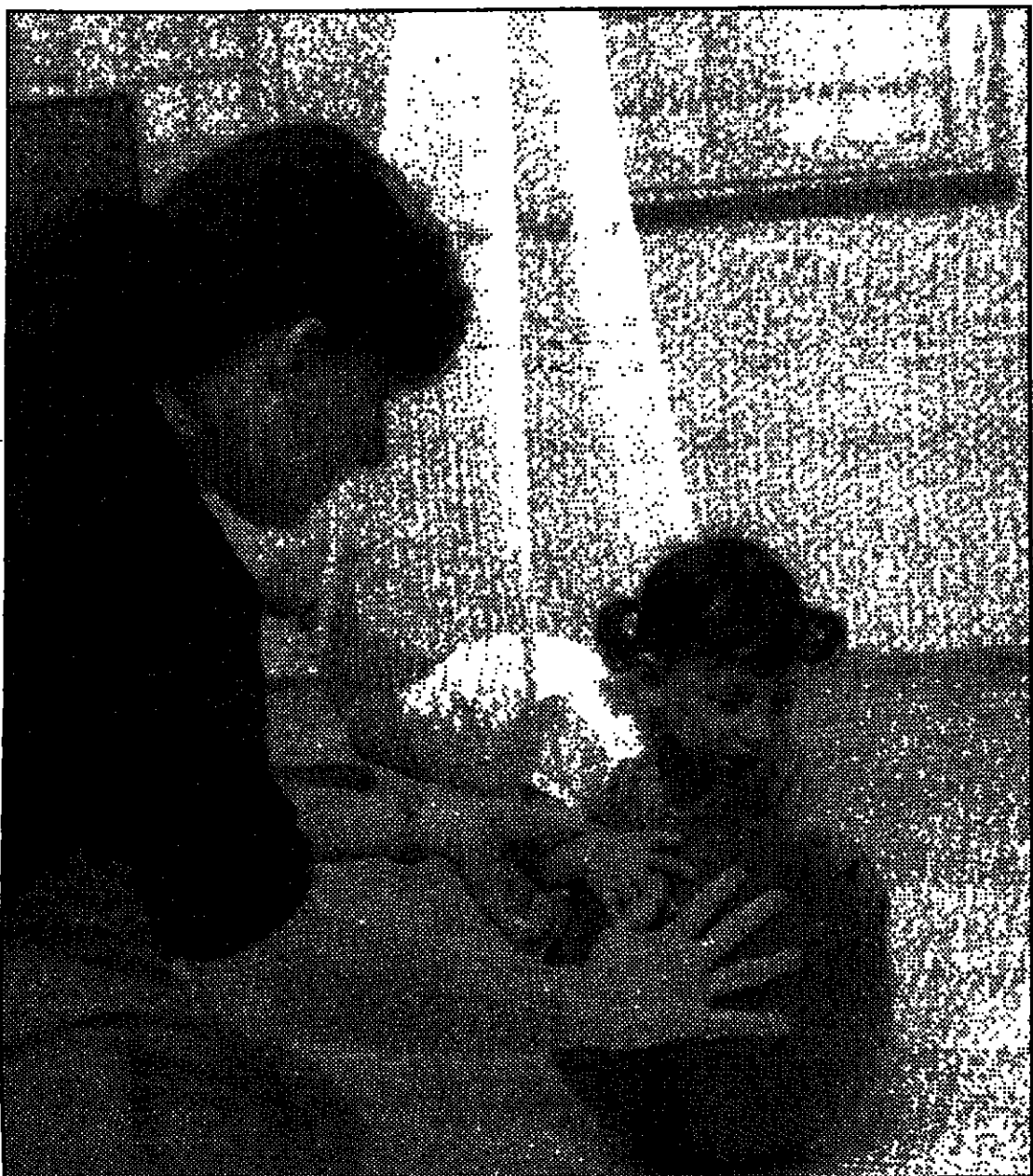
Last year, Nelson reported that babies exposed to infection in the womb had nine times the usual risk of CP. She set out to discover why, and to see if there was a way to stop it happening. The key seems to be inflammation, she reported in the *Annals of Neurology*.

"It does seem that strong immune activity is playing an important role here," Nelson said. "We think now that there may be inflammation other than infection that may play a role here, such as autoimmune disease."

INFLAMMATION is the body's response to everything from a bump on the head to a bacterial invasion. Cytokines send out signals that cause immune cells to rush in and repair the damage or eat up the invader.

But the swelling this causes can be as bad as the original hurt, and, in the case of autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or lupus, perfectly healthy tissue is attacked.

In addition, Nelson said, it has recently been found that cytokines



A net and ball helps build muscle control: The real culprit in the condition may be natural body chemicals that have gone awry.

are important for the normal development of the infant brain.

"There may be a number of factors that put a baby at risk — that in combination spell trouble," she said.

These would include the blood coagulation factors.

Nelson said brain images of some of the babies with cerebral palsy seemed to show they had suffered mini-strokes.

In a stroke, a blood clot blocks blood flow and brain cells, starved of oxygen, die. Neighboring brain cells often also die.

It is too soon to know just what to look for, but Nelson said it may

be possible to screen pregnant women for danger signals.

"A woman with a history of several pregnancy losses and or a family history of blood clotting disorders such as early stroke or heart attack might want to discuss with her doctor whether to check out these factors," Nelson said.

Perhaps the women could take a drug that prevents inflammation and blood clotting. "It could be something as simple as taking an aspirin, but that has not been tested and shown to be effective," Nelson said.

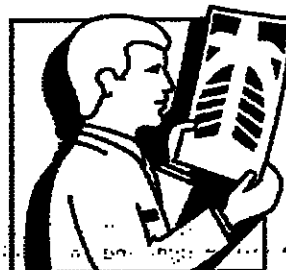
But at least there is some direction for further study.

"Five years ago, if someone had asked me, 'What can you do to prevent this kind of problem?' I would just have looked sad and said, 'I don't know,'" she added.

Nelson, who worked with the California Birth Defects Monitoring Programme, said a simple blood test developed by Terry Phillips at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., made her study possible. The test uses a tiny drop of blood from newborns.

"Progress often comes with the ability to measure something," she said. "It sounds boring, but it's true."

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Premature babies, especially those born before 32 weeks and weighing less than 1.5 kilos, usually need numerous blood transfusions during their weeks or even months in a neonatal intensive care unit.

They aren't born anemic, but they become anemic and need additional blood because of the many blood tests they need. Their young bones cannot produce enough red blood cells to make up for the deficit, but donor blood can give them potentially fatal infections.

Now doctors at Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital have found a way around the problem. After receiving permission for their clinical research from the Health Ministry, the hospital's Helsinki Committee (on experimentation) and the babies' parents, they've given preemies a genetically engineered hormone called erythropoietin.

The hormone is already used to treat adults suffering from renal (kidney) insufficiency and other disorders.

The pediatric research, headed by neonatal intensive care unit director Dr. David Bader in cooperation with other Israeli hospitals, has proved very successful. All the babies receiving the hormone produced, via their own bone marrow, the red-blood cells they needed.

The researchers are now looking for the most effective and suitable dose of the hormone, with no side effects and no risk to the babies.

INSPIRED BY THE MUSE Viagra has a new competitor — a tiny impotence-countering tablet introduced into the urethra by means of a disposable plastic inserter.

But Muse, approved in 1997 by the US Food and Drug Administration and now available in Israeli pharmacies, is likely to

find it tough going against Pfizer's little blue pill, which is taken orally. Produced by Janssen-Cilag and imported here by its local branch, Muse costs NIS 69.80 apiece, compared to Viagra's NIS 48.50, and some men may be deterred by the more-invasive application.

Muse's advantage is that it can be taken by many heart patients for whom Viagra is a no-no.

Both Muse and Viagra require a doctor's prescription, however, and there is little likelihood of either remedy being included in the basket of services covered by the health funds.

Prof. Wayne Helstrom, a urologist from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, explains that Muse is a form of prostaglandin which expands blood vessels, thus leading to an erection. Prostaglandins have been used for years in penile injections (known commercially as Caverjet), but some potential users are put off by injections.

Muse is absorbed by the tissues, says Helstrom, adding that the prostaglandin is "identical to that found naturally in the semen of potent men."

Users will get an erection within five to 10 minutes of insertion, lasting no longer than four hours. This eliminates the danger of priapism, which can be caused by the wrong dosage of injected prostaglandins.

According to Helstrom, side effects are mild — a local burning sensation or discomfort in a minority of users. By contrast, Viagra has been blamed for dozens of deaths of American men suffering from heart disease or high-blood pressure. Viagra can also cause headaches and temporary color-vision problems.

Dr. Mordechai Halperin, director of the Jerusalem Center for Impotence and Infertility, talks about Muse's benefits and shortcomings.

"Had it been introduced a year ago, before Viagra, and had it cost less, it would have taken hold," he said. "But the price is high, and men would rather swallow a pill than insert a tablet locally if they have no condition that makes using Viagra dangerous."

Halperin added that only 5% of Muse's prostaglandins reach the two caverns of the penis where expansion of the blood vessels is most needed, and so a 10 to 50 times higher dose of Muse is

given compared to the injection, increasing the side effects.

Halperin has been treating patients with Muse for the last two years both here (via patients' legal personal import) and abroad. He noted that injecting prostaglandins is up to 75% effective against impotence, but added that it can cause indurations (hard-tissue spots) that discourage shots.

Viagra's success rate is only 50% to 75%.

ALLERGIC & AGGRESSIVE

Children with severe allergies have a greater tendency to develop significant behavior problems — aggressiveness, depression and irritability — than children with no allergies, according to research done at National Jewish Medical and Research Center in the US.

The chance of a child having behavior problems if he or she also has allergies is about 10% higher than a child without allergies.

"This seems to be caused by genetics," says Dr. Marianne Wamboldt, the principal investigator of the study, which was published in the *British Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

"It's not just due to the nuisance of having allergies, but is caused by some similar effect that underlies both allergies and depression."

Dr. Wamboldt's study compared identical and fraternal twins. By studying the former, who have the same DNA, and the latter, whose DNA differs, researchers were able to separate genetic and environmental influences as factors in behavior.

Behavior problems are found more frequently in the co-twin of an identical twin with allergies — even when the co-twin himself doesn't have the allergy — than in the co-twin of fraternal twins with allergies, leading researchers to believe that the association between severe allergies and behavior problems is mostly genetic.

"Our research found that genetics accounts for more than 70% of the relationship between allergies and behaviors such as depression and aggression," Dr. Wamboldt said.

The study, which looked at more than 200 children aged three to 11, may help physicians discover new approaches to treating children who fall into this group.

A painless needle will stop you from feeling like a pin cushion

By JAMES PILCHER

ATLANTA — Numerous diseases from Type I diabetes to multiple sclerosis can require daily injections, making the patient feel like a pin cushion.

Now two professors at the Georgia Institute of Technology are working on microneedles as a pain-free way to deliver drugs into the body.

The concept is relatively simple: Replace one long, painful needle with a patch containing hundreds of tiny, painless ones.

The microneedles are so short and thin — about 25 could fit inside a regular hypodermic needle — that they don't reach the

nerves, and patients don't feel a thing.

One patient who would welcome the experimental technology is 11-year-old Matthew Loibl, who developed a cancerous tumor in his leg. The tumor was painful enough for him; a daily barrage of needle pricks just added to his misery.

"I've been poked so many times that I've developed an allergy to the adhesive bandages," said Loibl, who used to suffer through as many as five shots a day before a permanent catheter was implanted in his arm.

THE project is one of many around the country exploring needle alternatives. Others include lasers and ultrasound

which can create painless holes in the skin, and the use of polymers to make it possible to inhale different kinds of drugs.

One of the Georgia researchers, Mark Prausnitz, cautioned that there will always be a place for traditional needles, especially when drugs need to be administered directly into the bloodstream. But for drugs that can be delivered subcutaneously (under the skin), microneedles could give doctors greater control.

"Once a pill or a needle is inside the body, it's out of anyone's control," said Prausnitz, who envisions hooking his device up to an electronic pump. "With microneedles, you can have a lot more

control over what is going on."

"They could be used to deliver different kinds of chemotherapy or insulin — good news for diabetics, some of whom need several shots a day," adds the researcher, who is a professor of chemical engineering at GIT.

"I was working on using electronic pulses to create openings in the skin, but that still was painful. So I thought: There has to be a simpler way of getting drugs into the body — and that took me to this."

Microneedles, which could be available within four or five years, puncture the skin, but only the outer layer of dead skin.

"It is a very elegant way of avoiding

pain," said Rita Vanbever, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who is working on finding alternative methods of drug delivery.

Reducing the pain and fear associated with needles aren't the only benefits. "It's always a goal to avoid injection," Vanbever said.

The microneedles are 10-20 microns long — a micron is one-thousandth of a mm — and about as thick as a single human hair. A standard array includes about 400 microneedles and is about 2.5 sq. cm. It resembles the patches used to deliver other kinds of drugs, including nicotine.

Using fabrication techniques mastered

by GIT professor Mark Allen, the microneedles are infinitely sharper than standard needles and are made out of silicon, though other substances could be used.

The researchers say they hope to begin human testing soon. Prausnitz recently began discussions with drug companies which would manufacture and market the product.

It will be none too soon for Matthew Loibl and his mother, Carol.

"It's upsetting because Matthew already feels bad, and the needles make him feel worse," Mrs. Loibl said.

"I saw something about this technology and said, 'Let's get on with it.'" (AP)

Hap. Haifa maintain league supremacy

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Haifa remained top of the pack at the end of the seventh round of National League soccer action played over the weekend, with an away victory against bottom of the table Maccabi Jaffa yesterday.

Hapoel found their hosts far from benevolent even under the leadership of new coach Moshe Onana, but still only managed to squeeze a 2-1 result. Jaffa's goal was the first conceded by Hapoel since the start of the season, and so wiped out Haifa's "keeper Dudu Awat" previous clean sheet.

Second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva made mincemeat of Hapoel Beit She'an with a 7-0 win that had the home fans singing and dancing in the stands. The result makes next week's big match between the two leading clubs an even more tantalizing prospect than ever.

Maccabi Haifa showed the extent of their deadly armor with a 4-0 goal blast against an out-of-form Maccabi Petah Tikva at Kiryat Eliezer. The match should provide a boost to the club's confidence ahead of Thursday's do-or-die Cup Winners' Cup return fixture against Austria's SV Reid.

Beitar Jerusalem went up to third spot with a 4-1 away victory over Maccabi Herzliya. Although the Betaris still looked out of touch, the flustering result stopped the rot after two straight league defeats.

In other matches, Hapoel Jerusalem came back from 1-0 and 1-2 down to beat Ironi Ashdod at home in a thrilling affair, and on Friday, Hapoel Tel Aviv were too strong for Hapoel Kfar Sava, winning 3-1 in their home fixture in Herzliya.

Maccabi Haifa 4, Maccabi Petah Tikva 0

The non-stop attacking play that characterized this stirring performance created plenty of food-for-thought for Reid coach Karl Rotzinger who was in the stands taking notes.

Yossi Benayoun was in smashing form, a cheeky lob over a defender was met on the volley by the insolent of Alon Mizrahi's right foot for Maccabi's 12th-minute opening goal.

Radovan Hromatich supplied the second with a 20th-minute header that left Petah Tikva goalkeeper Meir Cohen paralyzed on his goal line.

The home fans had to wait until the 73rd minute for Mizrahi to

increase the lead, while Benayoun got into the act ten minutes before the final whistle with a shot that bounced into goal off the stanchion.

Hapoel PT 7, Hapoel Beit She'an 0

Petah Tikva's sixth-consecutive victory provided firm proof that Giora Spiegel is beginning to get the most out of his talented staff, and has molded a side that should be good enough to mount a sustained challenge for the title.

Beit She'an were admittedly weak opposition, but the hosts literally destroyed them with some lethal finishing. Moti Kakkon secured his position as the league's top scorer with a fine hat-trick.

His first goal - a spectacular near post header - in the 24th minute started the Petah Tikva's goal rush. Reuven Atar provided two excellent goals of his own, the second in particular made a total mockery of Beit She'an goalkeeper Meir Cohen. Manor Hassan and Alon Maya each contributed a goal in the club's best display of the season.

Maccabi Herzliya 1, Beitar Jerusalem 4

Despite two well-kept first-half goals - from Ofer Shitrit and Amir Shelah - Beitar still looked unconvincing as they made their way to the

tunnel at the interval. Once Herzliya pulled a goal back in the 54th minute through Oren Damzinger what little remained of the Jerusalemites' confidence quickly evaporated.

The turning point in this important win for the champions came in the 81st minute. Until the moment that Yossi Abuksis's swerving free-kick beat the Herzliya wall and deflected

off Shuli Gilardi's outstretched hand to hit the back of the net, Beitar's 2-1 lead had looked decidedly precarious. With the two-goal margin restored Beitar went back on the attack and Nir Sivilia quickly justified his appearance as substitute with a delightful first-touch shot that sealed the scoreline in the 88th minute.

National League: Ironi Rishon LeZion 3, Beitar Jerusalem 4, Hapoel Jerusalem 4, Ironi Ashdod 2, Hapoel Tel Aviv 3, Hapoel Kfar Sava 1, Zahirim Holon 0, Maccabi Tel Aviv 1, Maccabi Herzliya 1, Beitar Jerusalem 4, Maccabi Jaffa 1, Hapoel Haifa 2, Hapoel Petah Tikva 7, Hapoel Beit She'an 0, Maccabi Haifa 4, Maccabi Petah Tikva 0.

Second Division: Hapoel Taba 0, Hapoel Ashdod 1, Beitar She'an 3, Beitar Tel Aviv 0, Hapoel Ramat Gan 3, Hapoel Lod 1, Hapoel Beersheba 2, Ness Ziona 0, Maccabi Kiryat Gat 1, Beitar Beersheba 0, Hapoel Ashkelon 1, Maccabi Netanya 1, Ahu Nazareth 0, Maccabi Kfar Kana 0, Hapoel Bat Yam 2, Maccabi Acre 0.

SPORTS

in brief

Hoddle agrees new England contract

LONDON (Reuters) - England coach Glenn Hoddle agreed a new contract with the Football Association (FA) yesterday that links his income to success on the pitch, the FA said.

Hoddle had widely been reported in the English media as asking for a 40 percent £100,000-a-year pay rise to take him nearer to the salary of leading premier league club managers.

A statement from the FA on Saturday said: "An agreement has been reached between the England coach and the FA following a review of his contract. His new financial package is linked to success in Euro 2000.

Van Hooijdonk back at Nottingham Forest

NOTTINGHAM (AP) - Dutch striker Pierre van Hooijdonk returned under tight security Friday to England's Nottingham Forest, three months after he walked away from the Premier League Club claiming it lacked ambition.

Van Hooijdonk, who scored 34 goals last season and helped Forest gain promotion to the Premier League, was escorted by a dozen security guards at the City Ground as he was rushed into a meeting with manager Dave Bassett. He then joined his teammates for a light workout.

Bassett has admitted being unhappy with Van Hooijdonk's return and said he will attempt to sell him on the transfer market.

Van Hooijdonk, who helped the Netherlands to a fourth place at the World Cup in France, was placed on the transfer list three months ago when he refused to rejoin the club during summer training.

But there were no takers for the £8-million asking price, leaving Van Hooijdonk to train with his former Dutch club NAC Breda.

His refusal to rejoin the club angered many Nottingham Forest fans, who view him as one in a long line of foreign stars in the country who have not always shown loyalty to their English sides.

Coventry fine Dublin for refusing to play

LONDON (Reuters) - Dion Dublin has been fined two weeks' wages by Coventry City for refusing to play in the club's League Cup match against Luton on Tuesday.

The striker is set to leave the premier league club, possibly to move to neighbours Aston Villa, and did not want to risk injury in the match against the second division side which Coventry lost 2-0.

Coventry manager Gordon Strachan said: "I hate to get into this situation with a player like Dion but what can you do?" Strachan has refused to let Dublin train with the Coventry first team squad this week after the striker announced his intention to leave.

He turned down a move to Blackburn earlier in the week and could move to league leaders Villa in a £6 million deal.

Nathan Blake leaves Bolton for Rovers

BLACKBURN (AP) - Welsh international striker Nathan Blake signed with Blackburn on Friday in a £2.5-million transfer from Bolton.

Blake, 26, will join Dario Marcolin - a 27-year-old Italian midfielder who is on loan from Lazio for the rest of the season - at Wood Park.

The move for the Bolton striker represents a consolation for Rovers' manager Roy Hodgson after he failed to land Coventry's Dion Dublin, who turned down a possible £6.75-million.

Blackburn, decimated by injuries, is struggling near the bottom of the Premier League.

Kiwis beat Britain 22-16 in 1st Test

HUDDERSFIELD (Reuters) - New Zealand saw off a determined Britain 22-16 in the opening clash of their three-match rugby league Test series yesterday.

The Kiwis, coming off a 2-1 series defeat by world champions Australia, led 12-2 at halftime but struggled for much of the second half as Britain fought back to 12-12.

This weekend's NFL schedule

Today's Games: Arizona at Detroit, Denver at Cincinnati, Jacksonville at Baltimore, Miami at Buffalo, Minnesota at Tampa Bay, New England at Indianapolis, New Orleans at Carolina, New York Giants at Washington, St. Louis at Atlanta, Tennessee at Pittsburgh, New York Jets at Kansas City, San Francisco at Green Bay, Oakland at Seattle. Open: Chicago, San Diego. Tomorrow: Dallas at Philadelphia.

British soccer results and standings

Premier League: Chelsea v. Aston Villa p.p.; Coventry 0, Arsenal 1; Derby 2, Leeds 2; Everton 1, Manchester United 4; Leicester 1, Liverpool 0; Newcastle 0, West Ham 3; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Southampton 0; Wimbledon 1, Blackburn 1.

Division One: Birmingham 1, Huddersfield 1; Bradford 5, Bristol City 0; Bury 1, Watford 3; Grimsby 2, Crystal Palace 0; Ipswich 2, West Bromwich Albion 0; Oxford United 1, Crewe 1; Port Vale 2, Sheffield United 3; Portsmouth 0, Norwich 0; Swindon 3, Queens Park Rangers 1; Tranmere 1, Stockport 1; Wolves 1, Barnsley 1.

Division Two: Blackpool 2, Fulham 3; Southend 0, Preston p.p.; Bristol Rovers 3, Walsley 4; Burnley 2, Wrexham 1; Lincoln City 1, Gillingham 2; Luton v. Chasetown p.p.; Macclesfield 0, Northampton 1; Manchester City 2, Colchester 1; Millwall 1, Oldham 1; Notts County 1, Stoke 0; Wigan 5, York 0; Wycombe 2, Reading 3.

Division Three: Barnet 0, Rochdale 1; Brentford v. Carlisle p.p.; Brighton 3, Hartlepool 2; Cardiff 1, Exeter 0; Chester 1, Shrewsbury 1; Halifax 2, Swanssea 0; Leyton Orient 1, Southport 0; Mansfield 1, Cambridge United 3; Peterborough 2, Rotherham 4; Plymouth 0, Hull 0; Scarborough 1, Torquay 1; Southend 2, Darlington 1.

Division Four: Blackpool 2, Fulham 3; Southend 0, Preston p.p.; Bristol Rovers 3, Walsley 4; Burnley 2, Wrexham 1; Lincoln City 1, Gillingham 2; Luton v. Chasetown p.p.; Macclesfield 0, Northampton 1; Manchester City 2, Colchester 1; Millwall 1, Oldham 1; Notts County 1, Stoke 0; Wigan 5, York 0; Wycombe 2, Reading 3.

Krajicek, Kafelnikov to clash in Stuttgart final

STUTTGART (Reuters) - Richard Krajicek upset world No. 1 Pete Sampras in a tight three-set battle yesterday to set up a final clash with Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov today at the Eurocard Open.

Booming serves and blistering returns enabled the 11th seeded Dutchman to snatch a 6-7 6-4 7-6 win over Sampras in a match which could have gone either way and lasted just under two hours.

The other semifinal was a more one-sided affair with Kafelnikov, the 10th seed, attacking from the baseline to wear down Swede Jonas Bjorkman, seeded 12th in the \$2.45 million indoor event.

Kafelnikov, who had never gone further than the quarter-finals in his five previous appearances in Stuttgart, won 6-2 7-5 to keep dreaming of the \$376,000 cheque awarded to the winner.

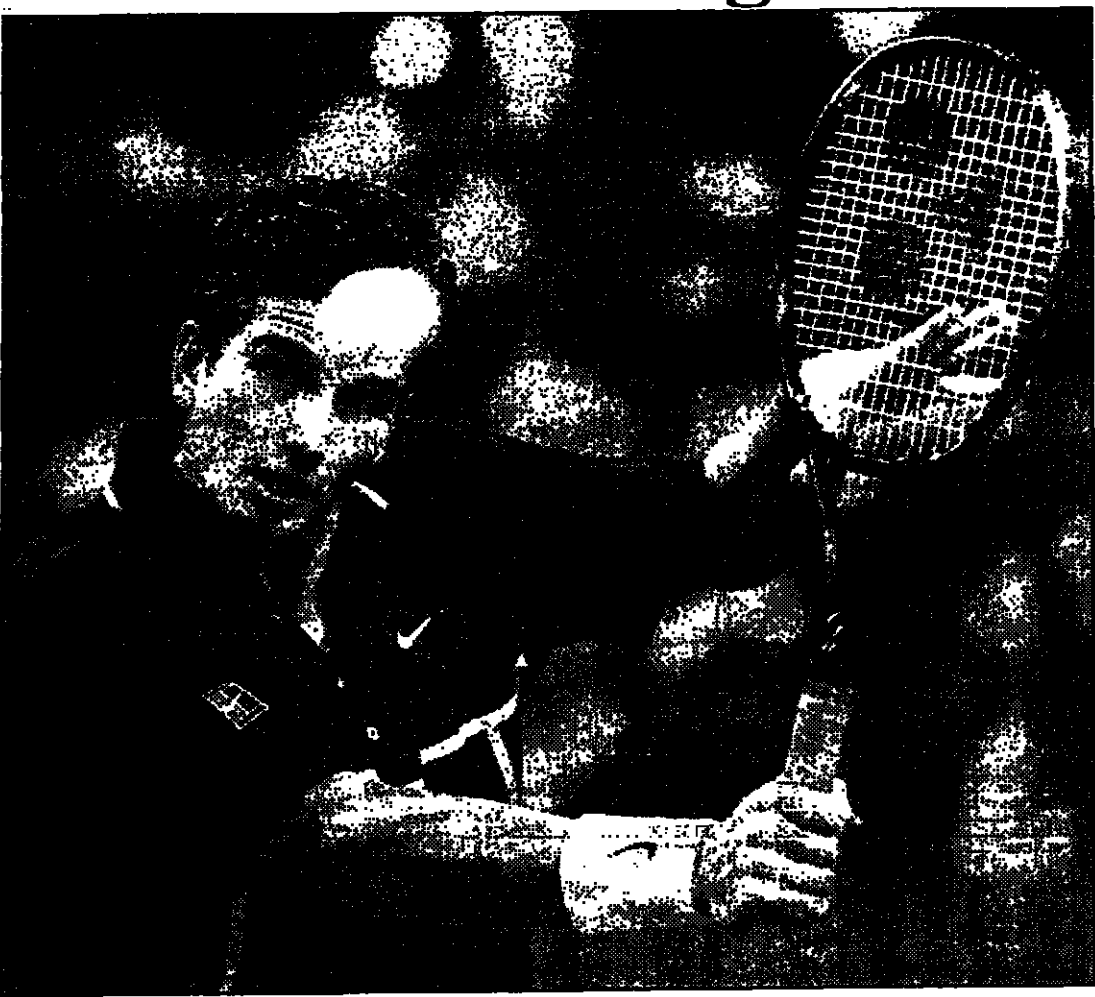
One of few players with a good record against Sampras, Krajicek has now won five of their seven encounters and has not lost to the American since 1994.

Both players held serve throughout a tense first set.

Sampras opened the second set with a break and the Dutchman handed him four set points by hitting a backhand wide.

The American only needed one, taking the tie break 7-2 with a forehand winner.

The second set followed a similar pattern with big serves dominating until the 10th game, in which



Richard Krajicek gives Pete Sampras a lesson on the backhand volley.

Goalie Richter's heroics save NY Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) - Mike Richter stopped 30 shots for his second straight shutout and 19th of his career and Todd Harvey scored the only goal to lead the New York Rangers to a 1-0 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes in National Hockey League action.

Carolina appeared to tie the score with seven seconds remaining in Friday night's game, but the goal was disallowed because Ron Francis had his skate in the goal crease.

The Rangers extended their unbeaten streak to six (3-0-3).

Sabres 4, Maple Leafs 1

In Buffalo, New York, Michael Crook, Matthew Barnaby and Derek Flinn each scored first-period goals to lead the Buffalo Sabres over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Dominik Hasek made 36 saves and had his bid for back-to-back shutouts spoiled with 5:46 left on Mike Johnson's short-handed goal.

Panthers 7, Blackhawks 3

In Chicago, Rookie Mark Parrish scored four goals and Rob Niedermayer added two more to help the Florida Panthers snap a five-game winless streak.

Florida, which had scored a league-low 12 goals in its seven previous games.

Stars 3, Mighty Ducks 3

In Dallas, Steve Rucchin and Teemu Selanne scored goals over a 26-second span in the final minute of regulation as the Anaheim Mighty Ducks rallied for a tie with the Dallas Stars.

Dallas had built a 3-1 advantage with 1:40 to play on Jere Lehtinen's wrist shot from the right circle.

But the Mighty Ducks, with an extra attacker for goaltender Cory Hobbie, narrowed the deficit to 3-2 on Rucchin's second goal of the season at 19:22. Selanne sent the game into overtime with his fifth goal of the season at 19:48 from in front of the net.

Capitals 0, Flames 0

In Calgary, Alberta, Washington goaltender Rick Tabaracci made 20 saves in his return to Calgary to help the injury-riddled Capitals earn a tie with Ken Wreggett and the Flames.

In a matchup featuring the Flames' No. 1 goalie this season and his predecessor from last season, Wreggett was busier with 27 saves, but neither goalie needed to be spectacular in recording his first shutout of the season.

Penguins 2, Canucks 2

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Alexander Mogilny's breakthrough goal 17 seconds into the third period completed Vancouver's comeback from a 2-0 deficit and the Canucks tied the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Canucks, 0-2-1 in their last three games, came within a video review of winning the game 2-13 into overtime when it was ruled that Markus Naslund kicked the puck in the net.

Lightning 3, Kings 0

In Inglewood, California, Raymond Langkow snapped a scoreless tie with his first goal of the

season in the third period and Tampa Bay scored two empty-net goals in the final 30 seconds for a victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

Langkow's rebound sailed over the outstretched right arm of rookie goalie Manny Legace, hit the right post and bounced in at 2:21 after the Kings had turned the puck over at the blue line.

Stars 3, Oilers 2

Anheim, Rucchin 2 (McKenzie, Kariya), 18:22.6, Anheim, Salanne 5 (Marty, Rucchin), 18:40. Over time: Stars 3-2, Oilers 2-1. Stars on goal-Anheim 5-10-16-34, Dallas 12-5-5-27. Power-play Opportunities-Anheim 0 of 5, Dallas 1 of 3. Goals-Anheim, Herbert 3-2-2 (27 shots-24 saves), Dallas, Turk 1-0-1 (34-31).

Washington 0-0-0-0

First Period-None, Second Period-None, Third Period-None. Over time-None. Shots on goal-Anheim 5-10-16-34, Dallas 12-5-5-27. Power-play Opportunities-Anheim 0 of 5, Dallas 1 of 3. Goals-Anheim, Herbert 3-2-2 (27 shots-24 saves), Dallas, Turk 1-0-1 (34-31).

Pittsburgh 11-0-0-2

First Period-1, Pittsburgh, Straka 3 (Tlov, St. Louis 2, Detroit 1, Colorado 4, San Jose 2.

Darcy Tucker and Cory Cross scored empty-net goals in the final 30 seconds. The Lightning dominated the third period, outshooting the Kings 15-8.

Barnes, 5:09 (pp), Second Period-2, Pittsburgh, Jagr 3 (Sawak, Tlov), 5:44 (pp), 3, Vancouver, Hossa 2 (Mogilny, Scuderi), 9:04, Third Period-None, Vancouver, Mogilny 3, 17. Over time-None. Shots on goal-Pittsburgh 6-11-6-25, Vancouver 5-8-2-20. Power-play Opportunities-Pittsburgh 2 of 5, Vancouver 0 of 4. Goals-Pittsburgh, Scuderi 2-2-2 (20 shots-18 saves), Vancouver, Snow 4-4-1 (25-22).

Tampa Bay 0-0-3-3

First Period-None, Second Period-None, Third Period-1, Tampa Bay, Langer 1 (Gibson), 2:21, 2, Tampa Bay, Tucker 4 (Zamuner), 19:29 (pp), Tampa Bay, Cross 2 (Hale), 19:45 (pp). Shots on goal-Tampa Bay 7-8-15-28, Los Angeles 6-10-5-27. Power-play Opportunities-Tampa Bay 0 of 4, Los Angeles 0 of 4. Goals-Tampa Bay, Pupa 3-3-1 (27 shots-27 saves), Los Angeles, Legace 1-2-1 (28-25).

Windies to play SA in Wills Cup final

DHAKA (Reuters) - Paceman Mervyn Dillon captured the key Indian wickets of Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin cheaply as West Indies swept into the Wills International Cup final yesterday.

Man-of-the-match Dillon finished with three for 38 as India were restricted to 242 for six in their 30 overs and West Indies completed a six-wicket semifinal win at 245 for four with three overs left.

West Indies take on South Africa in the day-night final of the tournament today.

The South Africans skittled world champions Sri Lanka for 132 on Friday to reach the final.

Man-of-the-match Jacques Kallis smashed an unbeaten 113 in a South

Africa total of 240 for seven off 39 overs after early rain cut playing time by three hours.

Sri Lanka, set a reduced 224 target off 34 overs, were then ripped apart by the South African attack in only 23.4 overs.

In Perth, Justin Langer gave Australia an early psychological edge ahead of this month's Ashes series on the opening day of Western Australia's four-day match against England yesterday.

The Australian No. 3 warmed up for the series with an impressive 85 at the WACA in Perth.

Promising batsman Simon Katich followed Langer's lead to register only his second first-class century as Western Australia reached 265 for six by the end of play.

Hap. Jerusalem face tough test at Galil Elyon

By ELI GRONER

The featured matchup in tonight's sixth round of National Basketball action pits Galil Elyon (3-2) at home against undefeated Hapoel Jerusalem (Channel 5, 20:45).

While there isn't a team in the league that has played as well as Jerusalem to date, David Blatt's playing exceptionally well of late. David Blatt's club was only a second away from an impressive 2-0 performance last week, which also included a convincing rout of Maccabi Rishon LeZion. Given the uncertainty of Jerusalem's sick center Radisav Curcic's availability, and the northerner's home-court advantage, this could be Jerusalem's first loss in any competition this season.

Meanwhile, Maccabi Ra'anana (3-2) will try to build on its sensational win last week with another strong performance at home against Ramat Gan (1-4). Ra'anana has suffered several front-office problems this season - most notably Mickey

Berkowitz's failure as a general manager and a budget that is in danger of being slashed - but a win tonight could move the Ra'anana into their familiar spot near the top of the standings. Ramat Gan, on the other hand, finally managed to live up to its preseason hype with a solid win over Herzliya last week, and coach Muli Katzurim will do everything in his power to maintain his team's positive momentum.

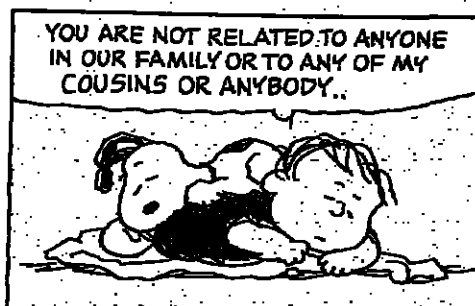
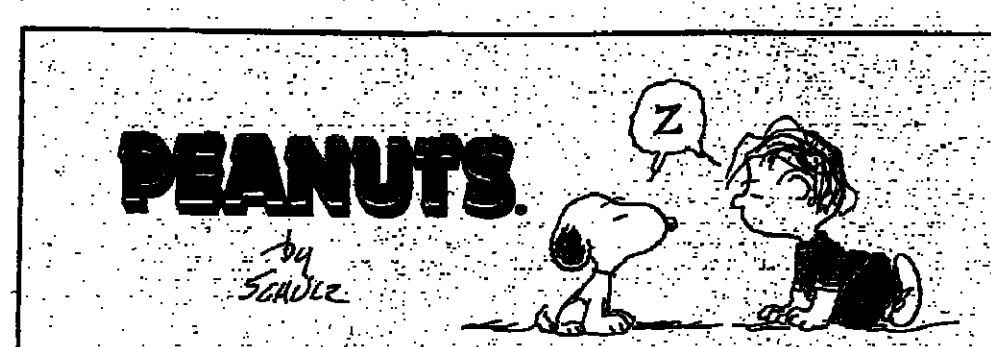
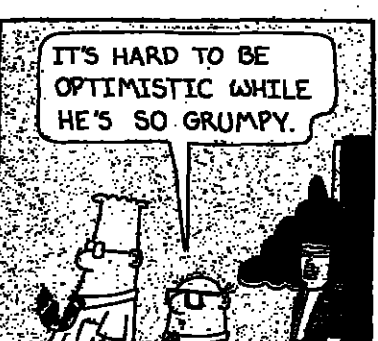
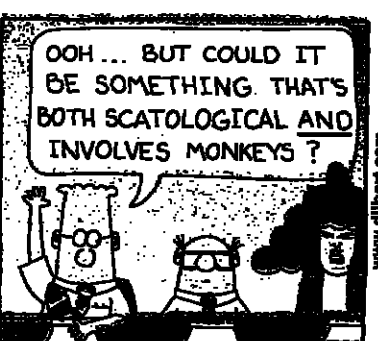
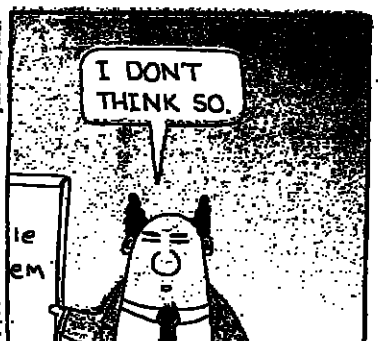
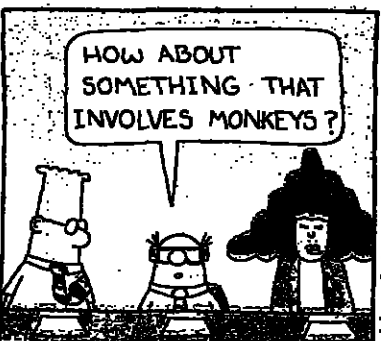
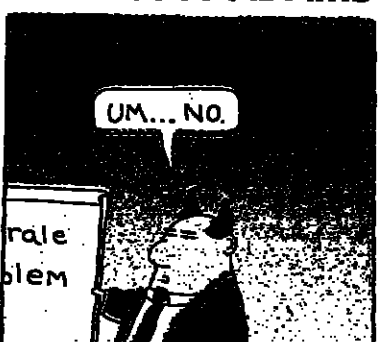
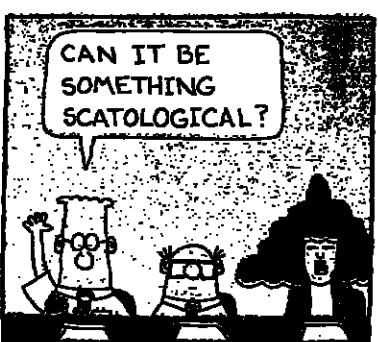
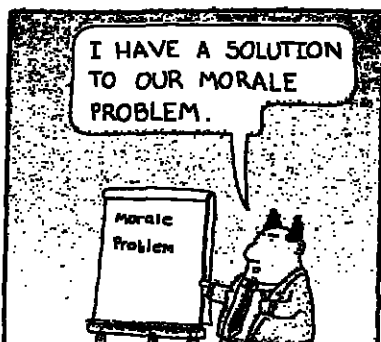
Can the magic continue for Hapoel Holon (4-1)? Will Rishon (2-3) come out stronger after Pini Gershon's departure? Those questions will be answered tonight when the league's surprise team is pitted against one of its most disappointing.

In other action, Hapoel Tel Aviv (0-4) will try to pick up its first win of the season in Eilat (2-3); Herzliya (2-3) will attempt to distance itself from Relegation Land at home against Givat Shmuel (1-4); and Maccabi Tel Aviv (4-0) looks to remain perfect in league play, while entertaining Maccabi Haifa (1-4) in Yad Eliahu.



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



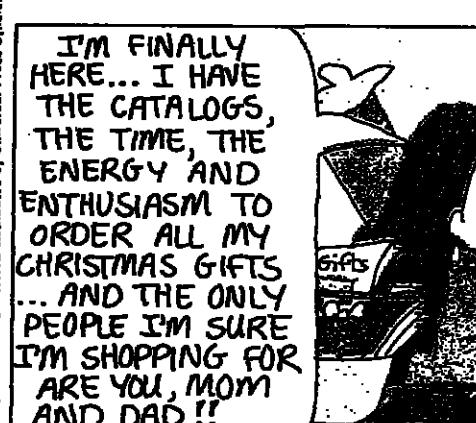
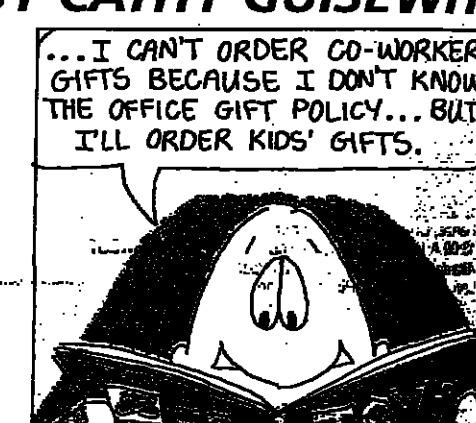
Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE



calvin and Hobbes

BY WATSON

